

INTERNATIONAL

Progress made in talks with Turkey

US seeks to modernise bases

ANKARA, April 18, (Reuters): The United States is making progress in talks with Turkey on modernising intelligence bases near the Soviet Union, a diplomatic source said yesterday.

Washington wants to install more powerful equipment at the southeastern Pirinlik base, which monitors Soviet missile launch sites, and improve airport landing systems at Sincop, a code-breaking and eavesdropping centre on the Black Sea coast.

"There has been some progress in the past nine

months," one source said. The United States receives base facilities in return for aid.

Talks on modernisation only started in earnest after Turkey, a NATO member, agreed in February 1988 to extend its defence and economic co-operation agreement with Washington to 1990.

It had delayed ratification following disagreement over proposed cuts in US aid and congressional support for Armenian claims of Turkish genocide against their people in 1915.

Anton Balasingham, recently

named head of the political section of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, was expected to arrive in Colombo from London in the next few days, sources close to the Tiger guerrillas said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a surprise move over the weekend, the Tigers declared they were ready to begin talks with the government about a

time and place for the talks. After that, he will be a member of the Tigers' negotiating team, the sources added.

Evans Cooray, Premadasa's press secretary, said the President's office was notified shortly before midnight yesterday that Balasingham had been designated to make arrangements for the talks.

Seven charged

LOS ANGELES, April 18, (UPI): Seven people, including a 350-pound (160 kg) professional female wrestler known as "Mount Fuji," were charged yesterday for allegedly throwing rocks and bottles at sheriff's deputies in a melee at a trial.

Sharp criticism

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 18, (AP): Alexander Dubcek, the leader of Czechoslovakia's failed 1968 "Prague Spring" reforms has levelled sharp criticism at former Hungarian leader Janos Kadar in an unprecedented interview aired on Hungarian television.

Defector arrested

SEOUL, South Korea, April 18, (AP): A South Korean television producer in debt to creditors has been arrested in Indonesia on charges of trying to defect to North Korea, news reports said today.

Explosion

TOKYO, April 18, (AP): A pipe-borne explosion today damaged the two-storey office of a firm building the New Kansai International Airport, while another blast shattered glass on a boat chartered by the same firm, police said.

Jewellery for sale

LONDON, April 18, (UPI): Jewellery and other precious objects owned by Alice Keppel, mistress of King Edward VII, will be sold in Geneva next month, auctioneers at Sotheby's said yesterday.

Killer dies of AIDS

PARIS, April 18, (AP): A man who confessed to stabbing and brutally murdering 18 elderly Parisian women from 1984 to 1986 died yesterday of AIDS while awaiting trial, prison officials said.

Soviet troops

MOSCOW, April 18, (AP): The first contingent of Soviet troops and military hardware to be withdrawn from East Germany under a top-secret plan will leave May 11, the official Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Riots break out

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar, April 18, (AP): Rioting broke out after a meeting of a coalition of opposition parties who claim President Didier Ratsiraka's government rigged recent presidential elections.

Rebels killed

MAPUTO, Mozambique, April 18, (AP): Government troops and militiamen killed 10 guerrilla fighters in four recent clashes in the southern province of Gaza, the national news agency AIM reported yesterday.

Plan put off

BONN, West Germany, April 18, (AP): Chancellor Helmut Kohl, scrambling to regain voter support before federal elections next year, yesterday said he wants to put off a controversial plan to lengthen the term of compulsory military service.

National Guard

WASHINGTON, April 18, (UPI): The supreme court, in a case stemming from Massachusetts' objection to its National Guard training in Central America, let stand yesterday a ruling that the federal government has the power to order state National Guard units to active duty in foreign countries.

East German escapes

BERLIN, April 18, (AP): An 18-year-old East German yesterday escaped to the West by swimming across the Spree River but a friend accompanying him didn't make it, West Berlin police said.

Gorbachev accused

WASHINGTON, April 18, (Reuters): British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe yesterday accused Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev of "old-style Russian policy-making."

Leaders resign

SEOUL, South Korea, April 18, (AP): Senior leaders of South Korea's second largest opposition party resigned yesterday over a scandal in which a party lawmaker bribed a rival party's candidate to drop out of a national assembly election.

Democracy

LIJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, April 18, (AP): Yugoslavia's President-elect Janez Drnovsek said yesterday that the spread of democracy in this communist nation cannot be stopped and suggested the country could join a West European trading organisation within five years.

Tamil name envoy for talks

COLOMBO, April 18, (AP): The Tamil Tigers, who have been waging a separatist war against the Sinhalese majority for the past six years, have appointed a Sri Lankan-born British Tamil to start peace talks with the government, government officials and Tamil sources said.

In a surprise move over the weekend, the Tigers declared

they were ready to begin talks

with the government about a

time and place for the talks. After

that, he will be a member of the

Tigers' negotiating team, the

sources added.

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Mahunt for kill who sought forgiveness

GLEN LEN, California, April 18, (AP): An apologetic note was left in the car of a winery worker, before he allegedly slit the throat of his three young daughters, court documents have revealed.

The hunt for him joined the hunt for Salcido, 28, who was tried with four counts of first-degree murder in Friday's rampage, which left seven dead. Authorities said he may have fled Mexico and acknowledged they will have a tough time finding him.

The note, ten in Spanish, was found inside the blood-splattered 1979 Ford. Salcido is believed to have been driving before it was recovered abandoned in Salinas, California, north of San Francisco.

"Forgive me, but this law made me do it, it is the note, which was written in Spanish. 'We could live by my children, but when I do.' Officials could say what 'this law' means. Salcido was reportedly tried by a child-support court, or so.

The note was in federal court yesterday in response to the FBI's request for an arrest warrant charging Salcido with unlawful flight to a prosecution, which was given by US magistrate Fredericoffen.

An FBI affidavit investigators believed he had escaped to Mexico.

"We will finally catch him and get him, but it's hard to do that," said FBI spokesman.

1 more bid in drug cult killing case

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., April 18, (AP): US authorities yesterday arrested the son of the owner of a Mexican ranch where a sacrifice was performed by a drug-smuggling cult used in 15 killings.

Serafin Hernandez R. Sr. of Brownsville was one of three men charged in federal counts with marijuana importation, possession and conspiracy. The other two were Martin Qua and Mario Fabio, both Mexicans.

Hernandez, the fifth suspect arrested in the case, was arrested at a Houston residence by US Drug Enforcement Administration and Texas Department of Safety agents, said Oran, chief US customs agent here.

Meanwhile, the hunt for Adolfo de Jesus Constanza and Sara Maria Aldrete, believed to be the cult's leaders, shifted back to Mexico City, intending to go to Mexico City, from there. Neck said.

Both Elio Hernandez R. and Serafin Hernandez Gr. were in custody in Matamoros. The younger Serafin Hernandez is suspected of drug activities and was not believed to have taken part in cult activities.

The filing of federal Mexican charges against the suspects in custody in Matamoros was delayed yesterday by the discovery the day before of two bodies near the ranch, where 15 mutilated corpses were found last week.



Washing away old year

GRIM-FACED soldiers manning trucks armed with machine-guns put a damper on usually exuberant New Year celebrations in Burma but crowds in Rangoon defied the troops to express their resentment of military rule.

Every day during the five-day festival that ended on Monday, gleeful youngsters hurled buckets of water over passer-by, the traditional way of washing away the old year and welcoming the new.

MEDICAL BRIEFS

Treatment for peptic ulcer

WASHINGTON, April 18, (KUNA): Over 70 per cent of perforated peptic ulcer patients often can be effectively treated without surgery, doctors announced in a new study comparing the two procedures for the first time in clinical trials.

Surgeons in Hong Kong, writing in the New England Medical Journal, made their conclusions about the avoidability of ulcer operations after comparing 83 ulcer patients over 13 months, randomly assigning 43 for surgical repair and the others to a regime of intravenous fluids and antibiotics.

Until now, the research doctors asserted, such "non-operative management" of perforated ulcers had not been scientifically compared with results of surgery.

The doctors said two patients in each study group died.

Study casts doubt on drug

CHICAGO, April 18, (Reuters): An Israeli-developed drug that showed promise in treating multiple sclerosis does not appear to be effective against the most severe form of the disease, researchers said yesterday.

The drug, called copolymer I, may be of value for a less devastating form of the disease in which the symptoms come and go, the report said.

Aaron Miller, director of neurology at Maimonides Medical Centre in Brooklyn, said a study using the drug on 106 patients with chronic, progressive multiple sclerosis — the worst form of the disease — showed "no evidence that the drug is an effective treatment."

Drug linked to babies' deaths

WASHINGTON, April 18, (Reuters): A drug due to be sold without prescription starting in June has been linked to the deaths of babies and should continue to be restricted, a private health watchdog group said yesterday.

Researchers in Belgium, where it is available over the counter, have associated the drug with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and in subsequent research found it to cause obstruction of the airways during sleep in infants, the non-profit public citizen health research group said.

The group asked the government to reverse a decision allowing non-prescription sales of the anti-allergy drug pheniramine, made by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories of Philadelphia.

Magazine to defend itself vigorously in London

Time takes court for 'defaming' Papandreou

NEW YORK, April 18, (AP): Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou filed a libel suit yesterday in London against US-based Time magazine for defaming him in a cover story that said he took millions of dollars in payoffs, his American lawyer said.

Leonard Boudin said it was decided to file the suit in London because the story was more damaging abroad than in the United States. He also said a public figure could make a case more easily under English libel law than American law.

In England, Papandreou needs only show the story written about him was defamatory and injured his reputation, while he

magazine has the task of proving that what it wrote was true, Boudin said.

In the United States, Papandreou would have to show that Time lied, but that it lied with malice, meaning the magazine did not care whether its usages were true or false.

Boudin said Papandreou has yet decided how much money he'd be demanded, but added clearing Papandreou's name the prime consideration.

Papandreou sued over a cover story that appeared in the magazine's international edition of March 13, which read: "The looting of Greece. From his cell, a fallen tycoon charges Papandreu with stealing millions."

The accuser was George Koskotas, jailed in Massachusetts and fighting extradition to Greece, where he faces charges of looting the Bank of Crete.

Koskotas was quoted as saying he passed millions from the bank to Papandreou and other figures in the premier's socialist government.

Papandreou has denied it and denounced the Time article as part of an international conspiracy to topple his government.

Greek President Christos Satsatzakis arrived at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport yesterday for a five-day visit to the Netherlands, his first to this nation, an airport spokesman confirmed.

Child failed to save self

AGRIGENTO, Sicily, April 18, (Reuters): A six-year-old boy who tried to protect his pregnant mother by offering his piggy bank to a mugger has died from knife wounds, police said today.

Giuseppe Clemente di Vincenzo rushed to his mother Grazia's help after a drug addict with a knife burst into their house near Agrigento on Saturday and demanded money.

The attacker smashed the piggy bank he was offered and stabbed Giuseppe and his mother, who is five months pregnant, before fleeing.

Giuseppe, who was stabbed in the stomach and chest, died in hospital on Sunday night. Police said his mother and her unborn child were out of danger.

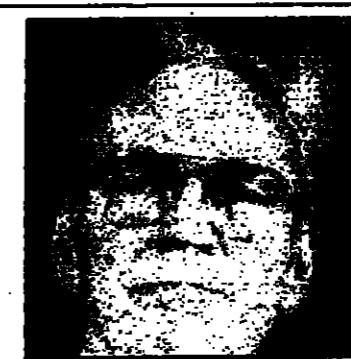
I am right, says Wright

House Speaker accused of misconduct

WASHINGTON, April 18, (AP): The House ethics panel, after a 10-month "preliminary inquiry" into Wright's financial affairs, said there was reason to believe violations had occurred in 69 instances.

Among them were charges that Wright's wife, Betty, had received a salary for several years from a Texas investment firm that was no more than a disguised gift from a wealthy developer friend.

Wright countered: "I can provide convincing evidence with respect to the fact that Betty Wright was gainfully employed and provided more than adequate services for \$18,000 a year."

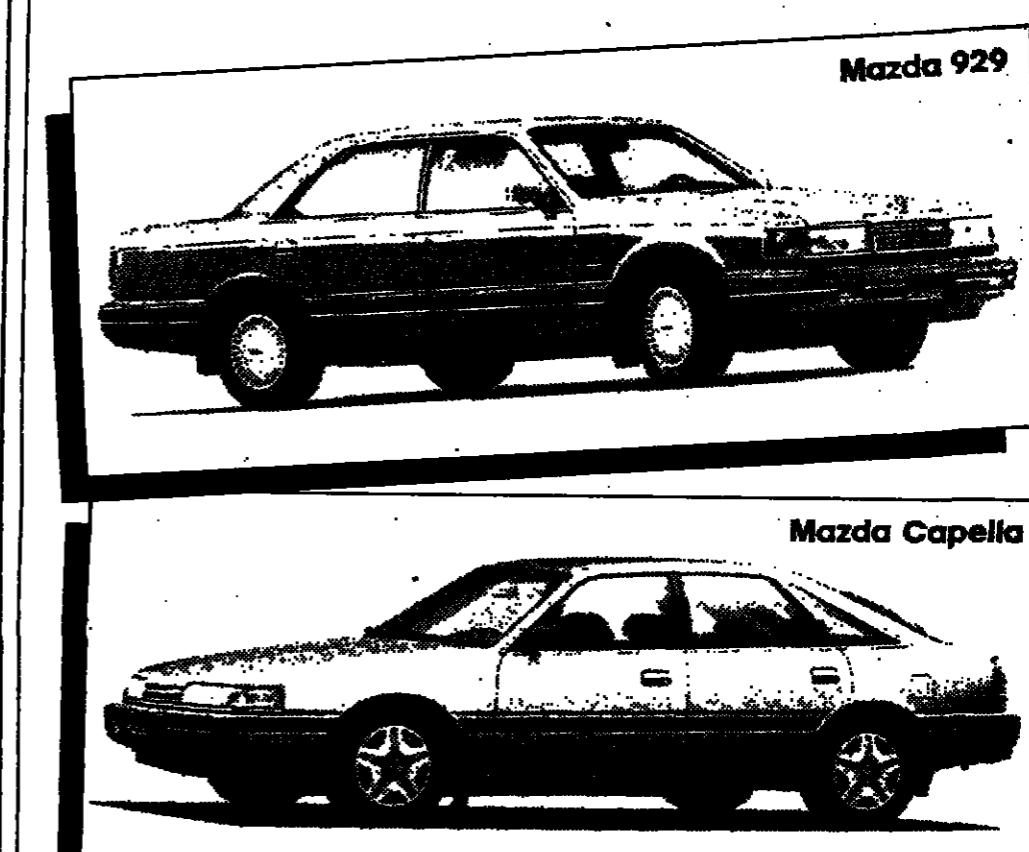


Wright trial

behind the vice-president, would not give up his post even temporarily. Oldaker termed the charges "a lot of noise, a lot of clamour, but very little substance."

The House ethics panel could recommend punishment ranging

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Escape attempt flounders as copter crashes

MIAMI, April 18, (AP): A helicopter plucked a drug kingpin from a prison yard yesterday but crashed as it took off, seriously injuring the inmate and pilot, officials said.

The helicopter went down about 10 am (1400 GMT) after a propeller caught concertina wire atop the wall at the federal Metropolitan Correctional Centre, authorities said.

Benjamin "Barry" Kramer, a champion powerboat racer serving a life sentence, and the pilot, whose identity wasn't immediately known, were taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital after the escape attempt, said US Marshal Daniel Horgan.

"Prison guards immediately extricated Kramer and the pilot out of the wreckage and administered first aid. They were hurt quite seriously," Horgan said.

Initial reports indicated the pilot suffered head, neck and back injuries and Kramer, 34, fractured his left ankle, authorities said.

MCC is the major prison for drug traffickers and others arrested for federal crimes in South Florida.

Among some 1,000 inmates are Miami policemen convicted of running a drug ripoff ring and others convicted of large-scale cocaine and marijuana trafficking or awaiting trial.

كعانت الـ



Amir visits old timers

HH the Amir paid a visit last night to the diwania of the aged in the centre of the capital during which he had cordial conversation focussed on memories from Kuwait's old days and watched traditional entertainment games played.

HH's visit to the diwania and meeting with its visitors, old Kuwaiti men who frequent it, falls in line with HH's usual Ramadan visits to the various diwanias of the country, where young and old Kuwaitis gather.

The Amir was accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaif Al Ahmed, Sheikh Mashal Al Ahmed, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed, Sheikh Hamad Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheikh Majeed Hmoud Al Jaber.

Licences to be approved after driving schools are constructed

THE issuance of learners' licences and change of foreign driving licences to Kuwaiti ones has been on a very limited scale, according to a senior traffic official.

The restricted issuance of learners' licences and change over of foreign licences is due to a traffic policy that will be followed until the opening of driving schools, Director General of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Fuad Musa Al Saleh said.

The department will provide learners' licences to the approved categories only shortly in order to reduce pressure on the driving schools that will be built in the future.

Annual report

Approval of applications of approved categories of learners' licences will be from the director general's department. However, the department has also authorised directors of branches in different governorates to approve such applications with a view to reducing pressure on the main office, Saleh said.

The board of the Kuwaiti Company for Driving Schools held a meeting last week to discuss the annual report. The board decided to conduct an indepth study into the theoretical and practical curricula of the schools prior to accelerating the pace of construction of its buildings and training areas, Saleh said.

He went on to say that the board had sent delegations to visit driving schools in a number of Arab and foreign countries. The board has selected driving schools in Jordan and France as models of driving schools for Kuwait.

The board decided to build one driving school near the premises of the General Traffic Department on an experimental basis, Saleh said.

Casualty units

THE Medical Emergency Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health is endeavouring to create a separate casualty and emergency unit at all hospitals.

The ministry intends to pay more attention to training of doctors and nurses in the field of emergency specialisations, according to Dr Mohammed Al Muyayes, director at the department.

He said that his department suffered from a shortage of technicians and ambulance personnel, the total of which amounts to 325 people. A scheme to develop emergency medical services at the ministry's hospitals is being proposed to meet the increasing demand for the services of such personnel, he added.

Bahrain Digest

Bahrain's 'Quran House' an architectural marvel

Bahrain will witness the opening this year of one of Islamic world's most unique creations, the Bait Al Quran.

This original and architectural marvel, described by its founder as the only centre of its kind in the world, has just been completed and will open its doors to the public in a ceremony to be performed shortly.

Dr Abdul Latif Kanoo, the founder of Bait Al Quran, spoke to the Arab Times in an exclusive interview about the centre's foundation and role in promoting Islam by the teachings of the Holy Quran to serve not only Muslims throughout the world, but also mankind in general.

Dr Kanoo, who is also Undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing, is one of the world's foremost collectors of the Holy Quran, which includes the first ever edition of the Holy Quran in Arabic in the world.

Collection

"With my vast collection of manuscripts of the Holy Quran over the years I envisaged the idea of putting them in a museum. From my original plan of building a museum I decided to add other elements to form a truly Islamic centre. Considering the great respect and regard that Muslims worldwide have for the Holy Quran it was natural to have a centre to promote and develop its teachings and understanding," explained Dr Kanoo.

Describing the centre as an "important impetus", Dr Kanoo added it reflects the spirits of the Quran and its teachings not only to Muslims, but also to people of other faiths and religions throughout the world.

"It is important that the Holy Quran should be read and understood by non-Muslims as well as to truly reflect its universal appeal and value. Non-Muslims today really appropriate Islamic heritage and culture. The idea to have a centre of this kind is to enable these people to get deeply involved in Quranic teachings and develop their quality of life and thoughts," said Dr Kanoo.

Bait Al Quran is a magnificent creation combining both classical and modern Islamic architecture. Costing KD3.5 million to build the centre which comprises five elements: mosque, school, lecture hall, library and the museum.

The mosque, which according to Dr Kanoo will have the most dynamic impact in the whole centre, has a capacity of 150 worshippers. The library will house about 80,000 volumes of every available information and extensive references on the Holy Quran and Islamic heritage and culture in English. It will also have special facilities and spaces for scholars and researchers. The lecture hall will be used for seminars and conferences with a seating capacity for 150 people. Facilities will include video and slide in English and French translation apart from Arabic. The museum, the showpiece and pride of the centre, will house some of the world's most valuable and priceless collection of manuscripts of the Holy Quran. The collection will include also, the first edition in Latin by Dr Martin Luther as well as versions in other languages. The museum, comprising of 9 halls, will also represent works related to Quranic history covering the first century to the present time. Both classical and modern Arabic calligraphy will be on display here. The school, reflecting 'the spirit of the Quran', will teach the Quran and its understanding to students by local and visiting Islamic scholars.

Financing

Commenting on the financing of Bait Al Quran, Dr Kanoo said the centre was built with funds contributed by individuals, including royalty, from all over the world.

"The whole idea was to build this unique place with money donated by people from all walks of life. We have had contributions from as far away as Taiwan, America and Korea from Muslims and non-Muslims alike. We have been particularly touched by donation from as little as BD1 from children. This has been the moving spirit in the construction of this centre. Therefore Bait Al Quran represents everyone as it was built by everyone," said Dr Kanoo.

He added, as a token of appreciation of financial support from people, the centre will have engraved in marble plaque the names of each individual who funded towards the construction of the project.

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or call tel. 4837370/1/2/3 - 4810722

Man falls to death

A 65-YEAR-OLD Kuwaiti national identified as Minawer allegedly fell from the balcony of his room while watching his friends on the street below and died instantly.

The incident occurred at the welfare house of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Relatives of the victim have requested authorities to investigate with officials of the welfare house the lack of safety rules at the house.

Jailed for adultery

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to two years in jail with hard labour and a woman to one year in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation for attempted adultery.

The court was told that the woman, a housemaid, invited her accomplice into the house without the knowledge of her employer and took him into her bedroom.

Bribe case an isolated incident: Rushad

Special project to defend doctors

By Bassam Al Qassas

FOLLOWING reports appearing in the local press of the alleged arrest of a physician for taking bribes, an official called for restraint in accusing physicians of any misconduct prior to any judgement being officially passed by a court of law.

In an interview with a local daily, Dr Abdullah Al Rushad,

NIC shows KD10 million nett profit for 1988

THE chairman of National Industries Company (NIC) Mifarje Ibrahim has said that it exports different products to Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Sudan and plans to export its products to a number of other Arab countries.

The company produces bricks, asbestos, plastic products, concrete pipes and batteries and participated in the Exhibit of Kuwait Industries in February last year and Baghdad International Exhibit last November.

Expansion

The government owned company follow an active and clear economic policy and expanded its factory buildings to be able to produce strategic products. The company has two factories one at Mina Abdullah Industrial Area and the other in Sulaiha area. Sales last year amounted to KD26 million generating a net profit of KD10 million. The company expects a ten per cent increase in its sales during 1989, Ibrahim said.

Diversification

The official said that National Industries Company is making studies to diversify and expand its products to meet the needs of local market as well as some external markets.

On the other hand, the director of marketing department at the company Salah Al Tarteet has said that the company merged all industrial units into one central marketing department.

Boat explodes

ABU DHABI, April 18, (Reuters): Three Indian fishermen were injured when their boat exploded close to the United Arab Emirates, a Gulf newspaper has reported.

Quoting UAE naval sources, 'Al Bayan', said the blast on Saturday was near Ras Al Khaimah in the north of the UAE.

Relying to a question, the

chairman of Kuwait Medical Association reiterated that the association for the past ten years had issued circulars warning doctors against the unethical conduct of accepting gifts and simultaneously had instructed patients not to offer any such incentives.

Motivated

In a related development, the medical association described the incident alleged to have taken

place at one of the maternity hospitals as an isolated incident.

In a statement issued recently, the association called on the Ministry of Interior not to arrest any doctor during the official working hours. The statement added that this particular incident should not be construed to encompass the majority of professionals and physicians who are indeed devoted and highly motivated in their duties.

In defending the majority of ethical and professional doctors,

Rushad also indicated that some

of the "legal investigators"

working at hospitals, also work

as part-timers in some lawyers

offices and instigate the patients

to file cases against doctors and

health officials.

In a related development, Dr

Bader Hamada, secretary-general of the association announced

that the association is planning to establish a special project designed to legalise doctors.

A fund will be established for this purpose, with contributions of KD5 each from members of the association, which is to be used for completing the structure of a swimming pool for association members at a cost of KD160,000.

NEW IN BRIEF

Fuel strategy

THE GCC Secretariat has begun a study on the unification of standards for diesel and petrol manufactured at GCC refineries for local consumption.

The director of the oil and gas

directorate of the general

secretariat, Anwar Yousif

Abdullah, said that a joint meeting will be held between the oil

refineries committee and the

marketing committee of national

petroleum companies to evaluate a comprehensive study

on the establishment of the

unification of GCC states' man-

ufacture of oil and gasoline.

In a conference held in

Manama yesterday, he explained

that the meeting will discuss the

possibility of laying a time-frame

to gradually decrease the

cost of lead in gasoline. He said

the meeting will consider all technical and economical sides of the project.

Unfinished arms

TWO defendants were arrested

by detectives of Hawalli yesterday

on charges of trafficking in

liquids and possessing unlic-

ensed arms, the Ministry of Inter-

nal Affairs reported.

The defendants and the con-

traband were referred to concer-

nadoes for further investi-

gations.

7ars for murder

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court

sentenced a defendant

to seven years rigorous

imprisonment for murdering his

son Salem.

The court was told that the

defendant was drunk at the time of

the crime. The defendant took

it to his house and com-

mitted to his son. But the vic-

timi Khalid's head on the wall.

Chained in a fit of rage rushed

to his kitchen and bringing out a

knife stabbed Salem who died

in his bed.

ew Muslims

TOTAL of 347 persons

embraced Islam in Kuwait last

year, according to statistics

issued by the computer centre of

the Ministry of Justice.

Statistics further indicated

that the ministry documented

4,528 marriage contracts

and certified 1,022 marriages during

the same period. There were

3,834 divorce cases in 1988 com-

pared to 2,826 in 1987 and 3,015

in 1986.

Marriages in 1987 and 1986

MIDDLE EAST REPORT

rit accused of weakness

APRIL 18, (AP): Former hostage John-Paul Kauffmann yesterday accused Britain of weakness for refusing to negotiate the release of John McCarthy and other British citizens held captive in Lebanon.

"Put yourself in his place," Kauffmann told a meeting to mark the third anniversary of the kidnaping of McCarthy, 32, a television reporter abducted on his way to Beirut airport.

"Country, Great Britain, has abandoned him. British officials they won't negotiate because it will only lead to the taking of other hostages. I say you can negotiate without giving in."

Seafar missing soldiers

CAIRO, APRIL 18, (AP): A visiting Israeli official yesterday said Egypt is helping to locate the missing bodies of 19 soldiers lost in the Middle East war.

The oil, Foreign Ministry director-general Reuven Merhav, also said he had conveyed an invitation to Foreign Minister Abd-el-Meguid to visit Israel.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source, who demanded anonymity, accepted the invitation but no date has been set for the visit.

Islamists supported

ALGIERS, APRIL 18, (Reuters): Algeria's newest political party supports application of Islamic sharia in criminal cases, the Arabic daily *Masa* reported yesterday.

It said traditional Algerian Party held its founding session on Sunday.

More than 100 parties have now been formed, most of them since political reforms ended the 27-year monopoly of the National Liberation Front following bloody riots last October.

Involvement in coup denied

KHARTOUM, APRIL 18, (KUNA): Sudanese Minister of Information Hussaini Abu Salih categorically denied yesterday involvement in recent coup attempt in neighboring Chad.

Abu Salih is also the official government spokesman in a statement that Sudan had no hand whatsoever in the latest coup against the government of Hussein Habre in Chad.

Bahrain sending aid

BAHRAYN, APRIL 18, (Reuters): Bahrain is to ship 900 tonnes of food and medicines to flood victims in South Yemen, officials said yesterday.

They said supplies were being loaded onto a ship at the island's Mina port on the orders of Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Salman Al Khalifa.

Barre sees Soviet ties

MOGADISHU, APRIL 18, (Reuters): President Mohamed Siad Barre, who cut off Soviet ties with the Soviet Union 11 years ago, has said he's to rebuild relations with Moscow.

The official Siad Barre news agency Sonna said Siad Barre made the comment at a meeting with a Soviet delegation headed by Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Department of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, in Mogadishu last night.

Fight against drugs

CAIRO, APRIL 18, (AP): The government of Egypt, deeply alarmed by the "crisis" of drug addiction and smuggling, particularly heroin, co-operates closely with the other countries in the fight against drugs, Interior Minister Zaki Badr said.

In remarks carry the semi-official Middle East News Agency, Badr emphasized the necessity for applying the death penalty against drugists and smugglers in order to face this "crushing danger."

Carter arrives in Khartoum

KHARTOUM, APRIL 18, (UPI): Former US President Jimmy Carter arrived in Sudanese capital yesterday for two days of talks expected to focus on the country's civil war and a projected famine in South, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The news agency Carter would meet with Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi, presidential council leader Ahmed Mirghani and other council members.

Jail for convicts

KATHMANDU, APRIL 18, (AP): A judge has sentenced 13 men to jail terms of 15 and eight months for conversion to Christianity, the Nepalese agency RSS reported yesterday.

The sentences were set by judge Nav Raj Upadhyaya in a district court in Bhaktapur, 50 kms (31 miles) south of Kathmandu, the news agency said.

It said that 13 defendants were arrested last August under a law in Nepal that prohibits religious conversion.

Shamir, Budapest

BUDAPEST, APRIL 18, (I): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived in Budapest yesterday amid speculation that two nations will soon resume diplomatic relations.

News of the previously announced trip was carried by the Hungarian news agency A in a one-line dispatch that said it arrived for a "brief visit."

Hungary last month had denied speculation from the world Jewish Congress meeting in New York that relations would resume by the end of April.

Like all other Warsaw Pact nations except Romania, Hungary is positioned on holding an international peace conference on the after the 1967 six-day war.

In the past couple of years, Israel currently opposes such a conference or direct talks with the PLO despite increasing contacts as well as expanding trade relations, with the goal of other supporters.

Mubaraks wife wins award

UNICEF raises work for children

UNITED NATIONS, APRIL 18, (Agencies): The UN Children's Fund has granted the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 1989 to Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubaraks in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the children of Egypt.

The award is conferred annually upon an institution, organization or individual for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in and contribution to the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children.

"Egypt is the first country to have successfully achieved high levels of coverage for both immunisation and oral rehydration therapy. This progress has been achieved with the help of



Suzanne Mubaraks personal statement said.

Village of death Killing of Arab youths planned

NAHALIN, Occupied West Bank, April 18, (AP): Two Israeli border police firing indiscriminately from a second-storey window were blamed by residents of this West Bank village yesterday for killing Arab youths in one of the bloodiest incidents of the Palestinian uprising.

A West Bank human rights group said it had appealed to signatures of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the United States, for international protection for Palestinians as a result of the confrontation last Thursday.

Four Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded in the village of Nahalin, about seven kilometers (four miles) southwest of Bethlehem. A fifth villager was reported to be brain dead by doctors at Jerusalem's Makassed hospital.

"We can only describe what happened as a planned massacre against a village that was not guilty of any crime deserving of such a punishment," said villager Mustafa Abu Adnan.

Villagers said the worst violence occurred outside the Azawieh mosque where worshippers poured into the streets and began pelting troops with rocks.

They said two border policemen firing from the second-storey window of a building across the street from the mosque were responsible for killing three Palestinians and wounding a number of others.

The shooting touched off protests throughout the occupied territories and drew condemnation from human rights groups, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

To Palestinians, the Nahalin killings have become a symbol of their determination to press their nationalist cause and evidence of the brutality of Israel's military occupation.

The Army has ordered an investigation into the incident. An Army official said yesterday preliminary findings indicated "excessive use of firearms, faulty planning and bad execution" by paramilitary border police who carried out the operation. However, he denied the incident was premeditated.

Investigators are also checking claims by villagers that border police provided speedy aid to the wounded.

An Army spokesman said after the raid that border police entered the village of 3,500 before dawn to apprehend residents responsible for throwing stones at Israeli cars. He said troops opened fire when they were met with a barrage of stones.

Villagers told the Associated Press the violence began around 5 am when about 22 jeeps of troops carried out house-to-house searches, firing indiscriminately as many residents emerged from dawn prayers during the Muslim feast of Ramadan.

"They shot at anything that moved — dogs, donkeys, people, cars," said Naim Sharakeh, whose brother Subheh was among those killed. "Anyone who came out of his house took a bullet."

Majeed Najajri said he was awakened by the shooting. "I looked from my bedroom window and I saw border police spraying bullets at the houses along the road," said the 29-year-old labourer.

Najajri showed an AP reporter two bullet holes in the window and on the concrete wall of the bedroom, where he said his six small children had been sleeping on mats on the floor.

Iran's judiciary joins call for reform

Political uncertainty in Iran clouds Gulf talks

DUBAI, APRIL 18, (Reuters): Political upheaval in Tehran has clouded prospects for Iran-Iraq peace talks due to reopen in Geneva on Thursday, officials and diplomats in the Gulf say.

They predict few concrete results from the fourth round of the UN-sponsored negotiations which began after a ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war last August.

"We are not optimistic that the Iranians are in a position to be more decisive or to change their attitude and start talking directly to us," Iraq's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoon

told Reuters in Baghdad recently.

"But we have to be there and we consider continuation of the talks to be positive in itself."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who said yesterday he was hopeful over the talks, will lack two members of his main negotiating team when he meets Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Velayati's deputy Mohammad Javad Larjani and Iran's UN Ambassador Mohammad Jafar Mahallati resigned after spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini fired his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, last month.

Nicosa, said Khomeini sent a letter to the armed forces chiefs urging them to remain vigilant and to maintain superiority.

The letter dispelled doubts that the 88-year-old leader wanted to dismantle the massive volunteer corps.

■ Iraq proclaimed a public holiday and covered Baghdad with thousands of posters yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the battle it says was the turning point in the war with Iran.



Remains of a rocket

A boy holds the remains of a rocket which exploded near his house in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Blind preacher fuelled trouble

Security swoop in Egypt nets 1,000

CAIRO, APRIL 18, (AP): Egypt's top law enforcement agency says about 1,000 Muslim extremists have been detained this month in a nationwide security sweep sparked by a riot outside a provincial mosque.

The number is roughly 10 times as many arrests as previously confirmed by security shuffles.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr, whose ministry is responsible for domestic order, disclosed the figure Sunday night in a security review at Cairo's National Sporting Club, the state-run Middle East News Agency distributed a summary of his remarks yesterday.

"About 1,000 extremists have been detained since the recent incidents at Fayoum," Badr said in his speech. He did not say whether all detainees remain in custody, but an emergency law under which he said they were apprehended allows virtual indefinite detention without charge.

The government contends that Abdel Rahman is spiritual leader of an underground extremist group called Jihad, which was blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat and a failed coup attempt that followed.

Abdel Rahman was tried twice for Sadat's slaying, for his alleged relationship with Jihad and was acquitted in both trials.

The government alleged that he had incited his followers to violence. It began after Abdel Rahman allegedly insulted a police officer, and the ensuing clash included gunshots from rioters and police in which four people were wounded.

Like all fundamentalist demonstrators in Egypt, protesters

demanded implementation of sharia, Islam's legal and social code that includes harsh criminal penalties like limb amputation and flogging. The government maintains that 90 per cent of Egyptian laws already conform to sharia, but they do not include the Islamic code's corporal punishments.

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He told reporters after his first meeting with Army commanders since his appointment on Saturday, previous plans for re-equipping, restructuring and training the services would continue. He did not refer directly to spending on the 450,000-strong forces, estimated unofficially to take about a quarter of the budget.

His predecessor, Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala, was made a presidential assistant in a reshuffle on Saturday.

Egyptian plans

New minister to boost Army

CAIRO, APRIL 18, (Reuters): Egypt's new Defence Minister General Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb said yesterday his main task is to enhance the capability of the Egyptian soldiers.

The United States also opposed moves by Moscow and Kabul to involve the Security Council more actively in the Afghanistan crisis unless that was the wish of all Afghan parties.

Addressing the council for the first time, the new US chief delegate Thomas Pickering said Soviet troops had withdrawn from Afghanistan only two months ago and the Afghans now

should decide how they wished to be governed.

"It is not the time to impose a peace or a specific future political configuration on them," he said.

"They have won the right, through major sacrifices and suffering, to determine their own future."

Pickering said: "The United States does not believe that the Security Council can or should at this time take a more prominent role in Afghanistan unless the Afghan people themselves and all the Afghan parties should actively seek greater council involvement," he said.

In his remarks, Pickering urged the Soviet Union and the Afghan government to release to the United Nations maps of minefields that he said had been laid in a reckless fashion, by their forces and now posed a threat to returning refugees.

Referring to Kabul's charges that Pakistan contravened the UN-brokered accords signed a year ago, the American delegate called them "spurious allegations."

He said Pakistan had sacrificed much to help care for and feed millions of Afghans who were the world's largest refugee population.

"I will not, however, that the United States views with great concern the introduction of long-range Scud missiles, one of which was fired into Pakistan in recent days," Pickering said. "This attack illustrates the desperate measures Kabul is prepared to use to stave off the inevitable."

Meanwhile, Afghan troops broke a rebel blockade of the chief land route to the Soviet Union, clearing the Salang Highway for 600 stranded trucks to supply Kabul with food and fuel, Kabul said yesterday.

Muslim commandos reported fierce fighting near Jalalabad yesterday and the capture of seven Afghan military posts

Jalalabad has been under rebel siege since March 6.

The rebel-associated Al-Bayan news service said the latest fighting for Jalalabad is concentrated around the headquarters of the Afghan Army's 81st brigade south of Jalalabad.

■ More than 36,000 members of the Afghan ruling party have been killed fighting the mujahideen fighters, the party newspaper said on Tuesday.

Jordan announces new election plan

Separation stressed

AMMAN, APRIL 18, (Agencies): Interior Minister Rajai Dajani yesterday announced voter registration plans for the first Jordanian Parliament in 40 years that will exclude the Palestinian West Bank.

The plan for the 72-member Parliament decreed Saturday by King Hussein conforms Jordan's claim to represent Palestinian refugees in the kingdom, but it allocates seats heavily in favour of non-Palestinian districts.

In his announcement through Jordan's official news agency, Petra, Dajani did not specify a date for what will be the first general election since early 1967, just before Israel captured the West Bank.

The West Bank had half the

Militant Sudanese demonstrate to protest suspension of Islamic law

KHARTOUM, APRIL 18, (Agencies): Several thousand supporters of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front demonstrated for the fourth consecutive day yesterday to protest suspension of Islamic law. One person was reported killed in the anti-government protest.

The front identified the dead man as Shaykh Al Rayeh Mahmoud but did not accuse anyone

and gave no further details.

"There is no God but Allah, there is no alternative to sharia," the crowd chanted as it marched through the centre of the capital, Khartoum.

They were urged on by Ali Osman Taha, the front's leader in parliament who told the gathering "the demonstrations will continue day and night till this

government of traitors, this

government of non-believers is toppled.

"You have come out to tell them there are sharp swords ready to defend the sharia of Allah."

Although the continued protests defied an Interior Ministry ban on demonstrations, riot police stood by without intervening.

But Mubarak Abdullah Al

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HUMAN nature is not of itself vicious — Thomas Paine
English-born political philosopher-author (1737-1799).

Peace in Sri Lanka still a long way off

By Feizal Samath

COLOMBO, (Reuters): Sri Lankan politicians and political analysts welcomed the idea of peace talks between the government and Tamil rebels but said an end to a conflict that killed more than 12,000 people was still far off.

"The talks are welcome, but we are a long way from ending the conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils," said Hector Abhayawardene, a veteran political commentator.

President Ramaesingh Premadasa last week accepted an offer from the main Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group to hold peace talks.

The rebel group, fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east for the island's two million Tamils, sent a letter to Premadasa saying "we are prepared to accept your open invitation to talk with us."

The acceptance of peace talks follows lengthy efforts by the government to bring Tamil and Sinhalese rebels to the negotiating table.

The leftwing Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, which is trying to topple the government from the south, rejected the offer of a unilateral ceasefire by Sri Lankan troops and a similar invitation by Premadasa for talks.

The week-long ceasefire has been shattered by the killing of at least 75 people since Thursday.

Forty-two of the victims were shopping for the Buddhist and Hindu new year when they were killed in a car bomb. Two days later 21 Sri Lankan soldiers died in a rebel ambush. Both attacks were in eastern Trincomalee district.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in the past six years in the two rebellions. The front stepped up its campaign after about 50,000 Indian troops came to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to implement a pact aimed at ending the Tamil rebellion.

Abhayawardene said the Tigers' about-turn after rejecting previous invitations to talks probably stemmed from the fact that "they are threatened by extermination by Indian troops and of being ousted by a former rebel group turned provincial administrator."

"In these circumstances they seem to find in the Sri Lankan government a possible ally," he said.

Premadasa has asked the Tigers to nominate a person to discuss arrangements to start talks.

The proposed talks would be the second between the Tigers and the government — the first being in August 1985 in Bhutan.

Those discussions with a four member rebel alliance, including the Tigers, failed after the Tamils accused the Sri Lankan government of violating a ceasefire. The talks were arranged by India.

A spokesman for the Eelam revolutionary Students Organisation, a former rebel group which now has 13 members in parliament, praised the government and the Tigers.

"At last we see a dawn of peace. We have often stressed the need for talks with the Tigers ... our efforts have paid off," he said.

The dialogue was also welcomed by Rev Maduloluwe Sobitha, a Buddhist monk and vociferous opponent of the Tigers.

"Peace is most important. Talking and discussing one's problems is good. Weapons cannot solve problems," said Sobitha, who led many protests in 1987 against alleged Tiger massacres of Sinhalese.

Lakshman Jayakody, member of parliament for the main opposition Freedom Party, was more cautious. "It is good ... it is good. But the government should not fall into a trap," he said without elaborating.

Jayakody said the Tigers should also talk to opposition parties and the front.

In an apparent gesture of goodwill, the president's office said that a further batch of 7,000 Indian soldiers would leave by next week.

About 5,000 troops left earlier this year in response to a request by Premadasa, who promised at presidential elections last December that all Indian troops would be withdrawn as soon as possible.

PRESS REVIEW

Stop pampering Israel

KUWAIT, (KUNA): A local daily has said that although 40 years have elapsed since the dawn of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the US still sides with Israel and views its security as "a sacred, unnegotiable and an 'untouchable' thing."

The daily Al-Rai Al-Aam added, in its front-page editorial, that as a superpower, the US which has friendly relations with all, cannot back one party at the expense of others.

"Some developments have come along, which call for taking decisions and adopting policies that go hand in hand with them and end this American political and military pampering of Israel, because correcting the flaw is an important process and a vital matter to all parties, including the US itself," the paper noted.

The paper quoted former US department chiefs Cyrus Vance and Henry Kissinger as stressing that Washington needs to take a clear stand on the Palestinian question.

Vance and Kissinger believe that Israel "must not, and it won't be able to, anyway, attempt to stay where it is now in the occupied territories, because demographically, matters are going against Israel and the strength of the Arab population will grow."

The two former US officials view it as necessary that Israelis and Palestinians co-exist within safe borders.

In conclusion, the paper urged Washington to attach more interest to the peace process in order to untangle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1552 — France's King Henry II and Pope Julius III sign two-year truce.

1587 — British fleet under Sir Francis Drake sacks Cadiz in Spain.

1775 — War of American independence opens with defeat of British at Lexington and Concord.

1783 — US Congress announces end of war of American independence.

1794 — Britain, by treaty of the Hague, subsidizes 60,000 Prussian and Dutch troops in coalition against France.

1859 — Austria issues ultimatum to Sardinia to disarm, but it is rejected.

1911 — Separation of church and state in Portugal.

1921 — Government of Ireland act goes into effect.

1928 — Japan occupies Shantung in China.

1964 — Coalition government in Laos is deposed by right-wing military group.

1975 — India's first satellite is launched by Soviet rocket.

1977 — Police in South Korea carry out nationwide roundup of political opponents of government.

1988 — Court in Dusseldorf convicts Abbas Hamadi of direct involvement in 1987 kidnapping of two West Germans in Beirut, Lebanon.

Switch from guerrilla tactics to conventional warfare not easy

Jalalabad stalemate dents mujahedeen hope

By Oliver Wates

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): The Afghan mujahedeen jihad, nine years straight forward 'holy war' against a foreign, communist invader, is facing a crisis two months after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan.

In the view of many analysts, Western diplomats and Afghan-watchers in Pakistan, the disparate mujahedeen rebel movement is finding it hard to adapt to the new situation.

They say the mujahedeen are losing the propaganda war with President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government in Kabul and have failed to establish their rival interim government as a credible alternative.

The movement has also failed to allay the fears of millions of Afghans in government-held cities of looting and massacre.

And, worst of all, it has failed to make good the boasts of mujahedeen leaders that a military victory was round the corner. The stalemate at Jalalabad has shown that the military struggle could go on for a long time.

"The jihad has not been as successful as we thought in the beginning, despite all the weapons we had," an exiled Afghan intellectual said. "It's very difficult to see the mujahedeen winning the war militarily," a Western diplomat commented.

This analysis is disputed by the seven Western-backed parties based in Pakistan. In public at least they are as confident as ever that final victory over Najibullah's People's Democratic Party (PDPA) is merely a matter of time.

All mujahedeen admit, however, that the six-week-old battle for Jalalabad has been a blow to their hopes.

The rebels scored early successes but found the switch from guerrillas tactics to conventional warfare beyond them. They have suffered heavy losses as their offensive became bogged down by minefields and bombing.

Resistance from government troops was unexpectedly tough.

"There is still no unity and no discipline and a lot of good commanders have been killed," the diplomat said.

The rebels have also badly damaged their cause by their behaviour in victory. When they captured the northern provincial capital Kunduz briefly last autumn, there was widespread looting and killing of government officials.

Last December guerrillas belonging to the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami party gunned down 70 soldiers who had surrendered, rebel sources say. Last month 25 captives were taken forcibly from a moderate rebel group outside Jalalabad and shot dead.

These and other widely-reported incidents are the most powerful incentive for defenders to fight to the bitter end.

Exiled Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh warned in his latest monthly bulletin that looting and killing by victorious mujahedeen would drive civilians into Najibullah's hands.

"There is a danger that uncompromising attitudes of the resistance will enable the Kabul regime and the Soviet invaders to achieve what they failed to do in the last 10 years — win the support of Afghanistan's urban population," he said.

Many guerrilla commanders are deeply unhappy with the way the jihad is being run. They blame Pakistani intelligence for pushing the rebels into the Jalalabad operation, a charge denied by Pakistan.

Four countries have recognised the interim government set up in February. But critics say it has yet to look a viable alternative to Najibullah's disciplined team.

The seven parties are still feuding. Two cabinet meetings were held inside Afghanistan, but ministers from one party were not even invited



An Afghan mujahedeen surveys Afghan government positions on the outskirts of Jalalabad.

to the second, guerrilla sources say.

The government has yet to win endorsement from Afghanistan's Shi'ite minority, powerful tribal leaders or exiled king Zahir Shah. Even its main supporter Pakistan has not recognised it.

Meanwhile Najibullah is waging a clever battle for the hearts and minds of the people. He portrays his government as defending the nation against Pakistani and Arab encroachment and preaches Islam, moderation and reconciliation.

Bitterness and hatred left by the killing of more than a million Afghans in the fighting run deep. But some Afghan exiles think the government's message could begin to take effect.

Officially all guerrilla commanders deny they would even contemplate doing a deal with the PDPA. But rebel sources say dozens of understandings already exist, such agreements to let food convoys pass.

The commanders' links to the Pakistani parties are often tenuous and in the long term many might be tempted to talk to Kabul, guerrilla sources say.

"Some very tough commanders are listening," Najibullah's speeches, they are following all events in Kabul," an Afghan activist said.

"The longer the other side hangs on in Kandahar and other cities, the greater the perception among commanders is that they can get a better deal from Najibullah," an Afghan aid worker said.

"If the blunders which are going on for the three-four months go on for another five-six months, many commands will reconsider their positions," a senior Afghan doctor predicted.

"Mentally people are so much against the regime that it will take some time for people to change their minds," an interim government has another five-six months to patch things.

Japan opposition eyes power

Ruling party popularity at a low ebb

By Eugene Moosa

TOKYO, (Reuters): Japan's opposition parties, long dismissed as noisy but powerless, for the first time have a chance at winning — if they can bury their ideological hatchets, analysts and members of parliament say.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), in power continuously since 1955, is reeling from the twin blows of a financial scandal and a new sales tax which has alienated most of the electorate.

To take advantage of the record low levels of support for the LDP among traditionally conservative voters, four opposition groups last week began discussions on forming a coalition.

They now stand their best chance ever of moving out of the towering shadow of the pro-business, pro-American Liberal Democrats.

But mutual suspicions and policy contradictions make it highly unlikely that they will be able to topple the LDP, even in the current ideal conditions, analysts say.

The largest opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, is discussing a coalition with the centrist Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the Buddhist-backed Komeito (Clean Government Party) and the tiny Social Democratic Federation.

The Japan Communist Party (JCP) is excluded because of the unpalatable nature for most voters of its more extreme policies on such questions as defence and business.

The initial aim of the coalition talks is to reach agreement on fielding joint candidates in upper house elections scheduled for August.

The LDP currently holds 297 seats in the 512-member lower house of parliament, followed by the Socialists with 83, Komeito with 56 and the DSP and JCP with 27 each. The Social Democratic Federation has four members.

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The parties cover the political spectrum from hard-core leftists to mild centrists.

No way you can forget Palestine

Exiles in US recall homeland

By Sharon Cohen

KENOSHA, Wisconsin (AP): Jacob and John Rantisi have built a life in America, but their hearts and minds often are in a faraway land, where they knew the joy of being united with family and the pain of seeing their world torn apart.

It is one they must wield with caution.

The head of the DSP was forced to step down after being linked to the scandal and members of the Socialist Party the Komets have been implicated.

The three-per-cent sales tax introduced on April 1 is a much safer issue.

Voters seem particularly outraged that they are being forced to pay extra for all purchases at a time when it is being revealed how much cash receipts receive under the table.

Even the conservative farming community, long a bastion of LDP support, is taking another look at the opposition parties. They feel increasing disillusionment with government moves in recent months to allow in more farm product imports.

Despite their strong position, though, the deep policy differences among the opposition make many analysts sceptical about the chances of a coalition becoming a reality.

The parties cover the political spectrum from hard-core leftists to mild centrists.

thought we could have a

opportunity here," Jacob said. "There the economic situation was very bad."

There were other motivations.

"We're not free there," he said. "If there's a demonstration or a bomb, it makes everyone fear they're going to be bombed ... there's no peace."

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Some of the listed firms 'need restructuring'

Government urged to map market strategy

THE Alshabli Economic Consultants said in their annual report that all companies listed in the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange market and which intended to distribute dividends for the year 1988 have already done so. In this report "we analyse 1988 dividend distributions together with a historical comparison of market performance for the past three years from 1986 to 1988."

Listed Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti companies that have distributed dividends for the year 1988 reached 29 from a total of 51. This means that the percentage of companies that distributed dividends in 1988 reached approximately 59 per cent for both 1986 and 1987.

The percentage of companies that distributed stock dividends reach 40 per cent of total companies that distributed dividends for 1986 which decreased in 1987 to 27 per cent in what we believe is a correct direction, then in 1988 the percentage of companies that distributed stock dividends rose again to 45 per cent which is unjustified.

Distributing stock dividends is not more than dividing the same shareholders among a larger

number of stocks with no positive effect on the real value of the stocks under the possession of the stock holders.

Although it is true that the market value of certain company shares increases, this however, happens only for stronger companies and for a short period of time, whereas the market value of most shares decreases in both medium and long terms.

This also increases the burden of dividends on companies in the coming years and continuously weakens their financial positions.

In addition, stock dividends increases market supply of company shares which disturbs market balance.

It is clear that dividends distribution is the highest for the banking sector, but this depends on a decision rather than performance.

In 1986 and 1987, 41 per cent of listed companies did not distribute any dividends, while this number rose to 43 per cent in 1988. When stock exchange markets witness this high percentage of companies that do not distribute dividends, certain measures are taken to determine

the problems and try to find the suitable solution.

In most cases studies are undertaken to study the performances of the listed companies and try to find remedies for each company instead of concentrating on the stimulation of trading activity or artificially raising share prices.

These indices (market activity, share prices) should reflect the company's performance and must not be considered as the problem itself.

Most companies distributed dividends in the form of stock which is a sign of weak performance as these companies are facing liquidity problems.

This problem of liquid cash rose when companies bought their own shares at market prices in order to decrease market supply and raise prices with no prior planning.

At the end of the year, these companies decided to distribute stock dividends in order not to show their weak financial positions.

Few of these stock distributions could be justified, as many companies do not have an increase in capital and do not

have enough means to finance it. Eventually, what these companies achieved was not a decrease of shares supply in the market and the stock dividend distributions have increased the companies' burden in distributing dividends in future years.

In neglecting stock dividend distribution and concentrating on cash dividends only and relating the latter (contrary to what was published) to market prices at December 31, 1988, the cash dividend distribution level in the market is found to be low reaching approximately 2.3 per cent of market value of total shares pertaining to companies that distributed dividends for 1988, and 1.9 per cent of total shares of companies listed in the Kuwait Stock Exchange market which represents average market performance.

Comparing average performance of the Kuwait shares market for the year 1986, 1987 and 1988 with both American and British markets, "we find that for the Kuwaiti market, cash earnings was 1.9 per cent, 2.1 per cent and 1.9 per cent consecutively. For the American it reached 3.4 per cent, 3.0 per cent

and 3.7 per cent for the same year, and for the British 4.1 per cent, 3.2 per cent and 4.7 per cent. This shows the weakness of the Kuwaiti market which is mainly due to the weak performance of listed companies rather than to the general economic indicators such as growth rates, and employment rates."

In most cases "we either do not know what we want from the stock exchange market or what we think we do know turns out to be wrong. This leads to decisions concerning the shares market that are either in the wrong direction or in some cases the exact opposite of what should be done."

"This report will not present the previous experiences of the past several years of the market as these have been thoroughly discussed in the past and the results are known, but we would like to stress that we should convince ourselves that the previous practices and solutions were inappropriate."

"We should avoid policies that were implemented in the past and did not achieve any positive results, such as price support,

(Continued on Page 10)

Poll finds farmers wary of leasing

MOSCOW, April 18. (AP): Collective farmers are wary and confused about new laws permitting them to lease land, but most see the move toward private property as the only cure for the country's agricultural crisis, according to a poll published today.

The poll of 176 heads of collective farms by the Kursk Agricultural Institute found that only one-fifth believed strongly in leasing and almost half answered "I have doubts about it, but I just don't see any other way."

Results were published in the Communist Party daily Pravda.

Y. Vorobyov, dean of the institute in Kursk, a southwestern Russian city, said many feared that what they could achieve on private land could be lost if the government later reversed its support of leasing.

One-fifth of the farmers believed leasing would only make things worse, and 7 percent "consider the situation so far gone that they don't see any way out of it," Pravda reported.

Investment

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told party leaders last month they must give farmers a feeling that they are masters of the land, because billions of roubles in investment had brought only marginal increases in harvest from the largely collectivised agriculture system.

On April 9, a new decree was published giving Soviet citizens sweeping rights to lease land for 50 or more years, pass it on to their children and sub-lease it. The decree created property rights that had been virtually non-existent under 70 years of communism.

Asked about the main obstacles to leasing, 35 per cent of the poll's respondents cited farmers' reluctance to undertake a new enterprise, 34 per cent pointed to farm specialists' disbelief that the leasing would be "serious and long-term," and 22 per cent cited "unclear ideas" among farm leaders themselves about what leasing meant.

In all, however, almost two-thirds saw leasing as a positive phenomenon, Pravda reported.

Economic growth below target

Pakistan seeks \$3b overseas aid

ISLAMABAD, April 18. (Reuters): Pakistan, seeking \$3 billion foreign aid, reported economic shortfalls in the current fiscal year but forecast a turnaround in the year from July 1.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has asked for \$300 million more than pledged last year from a World Bank-sponsored consortium meeting in Paris this week, citing the need for extra funds to help the transition to democracy after 11 years of military-led rule.

Pakistan's economic growth is estimated below target, prices have risen and the balance of payments deficit is likely to rise during the financial year ending on June 30, government officials said.

Improvement

They said they expected an improvement in the fiscal year beginning on July 1, which they regard as crucial as it will be Prime Minister Bhutto's first full year in office.

Government spokesmen use the restoration of democracy as an argument for more aid to help new government's development objective, which they say is to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living.

Pakistan has said it will ask for \$3.01 billion from the annual consortium meeting from April 19-20. Last year's commitments amounted to \$2.7 billion.

The new package must have \$2.05 billion in project aid, \$815 million in "commodity and programme-type assistance" and \$110 million in food aid, a

\$4.03b projects planned for Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, April 18. (OPECNA): New projects aimed at socio-economic growth and worth an estimated \$4.03 billion are to be implemented in Abu Dhabi over the next decade.

Saeed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, undersecretary at the Abu Dhabi Planning Department and Executive Council member, said the department had prepared a medium-term report outlining the basic requirements of the Abu Dhabi emirate in the next decade.

He said: "They include



Benazir Bhutto

memorandum sent to the consortium said.

A request for aid for more than three million Afghan war refugees in Pakistan will be submitted separately.

The aid-to-Pakistan consortium includes Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States.

Bhutto took office last December as the first woman prime minister of a Muslim nation, after her Pakistan People's Party won the country's first party-based elections in 11 years.

She adopted a previous caretaker government's budget

for fiscal 1988/89 as well as an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for reforms, including cutting government subsidies on food and utility services.

The government officials forecast GDP growth rate for 1988/89 at 5.2 per cent, down from 5.9 per cent the previous year.

Growth in agriculture was likely to be 4.2 per cent against a target of almost seven per cent.

They blamed the shortfalls mainly on sudden floods last September which hit rice and cotton crops and ethnic riots in the key industrial cities of Karachi and Hyderabad.

They went on to stress that the success of the proposed solution will pave the way for a big financial and economic boost, thereby mobilising the stock market and giving a boost particularly to banks' shares. The sources pointed out that prior to the implementation of the settlement scheme in August 1986, prices of bank shares were almost similar whereas presently there is a great difference in the percentage of variation, they said.

The success of the scheme will also ensure the restoration of all its loans, thus strengthening its resolve in not allocating some amounts as reserves to face any consequences resulting from the difficult loan issue. The extra liquidity will create better opportunities and a conducive climate to put the national economy back on the fast track.

It will also encourage indebted investors to return to the market after they have been bailed out from their present predicaments.

Government may buy difficult loans

(Continued from Page 1)

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 18. (Reuters): Israel's Koor industries said yesterday it had received eight bids for the English-language daily the Jerusalem Post by yesterday evening and expected more by the midnight deadline.

British publisher Robert Maxwell and the Canadian Claridge Group, headed by Charles Bronfman, made a joint bid for the Post but their spokesman, Moshe Teomim, refused to disclose how much they offered.

Teomim said the Maxwell-Bronfman Group would make public today their plan for expanding the influential left-leaning Post from its daily circulation of about 28,000.

An aide to Maxwell told Reuters that the press magnate, chairman of the Maxwell Communication Corp, wanted to make the Post the "international voice of Israel" by publishing it simultaneously in Britain and the United States each day.

Koor spokesman Amnon Bar-

gaining ground against the yen in slow overseas trading.

The yen has been overshadowed by concerns over political uncertainty surrounding the Recruit scandal, while the mark has been aided by continuing speculation over possible modification or abolition of the West German withholding tax.

Tokyo share prices finished mixed after fluctuating in a narrow range through the day in moderate trade.

"The market was supported by individual buying in incentive-backed issues," said Yoshiro Shimoyama, head of equities at Nikko Securities Co Ltd.

Nomura Securities' Tsuneko Ishii attributed the index's loss this morning to trading for profit-taking ahead of the price index announcement in Washington.

The Nikkei index firmed 13.33 points to close at 33,321.66. The key 225-share index ended 157.89 points higher on Monday.

"The big focus of the market

is the wholesale price index," said one market strategist. Japan's March wholesale price index was due to be released later in the day.

"The market is very thematic and incentive-backed," said a broker at a foreign firm. "People are generally fairly quiet ahead of a lot of figures."

Gold was worth about \$385.60 an ounce in late Tokyo trading compared with \$385.35 in New York on Monday.

In Sydney, Australian stock prices closed slightly firmer despite the announcement of a worse-than-expected current account deficit for March, brokers said.

"Following continued bouts of selling on the bourse over the past weeks, there was no reason for investors to over-react to the poor deficit figure," one broker said.

The main market index closed up 1.7 points at 1,421.42 after reaching 1,425.2 in early trade.

In Hong Kong, stocks were mixed.

Pratt to bid against Maxwell.

Post employees fear that Maxwell, who last month criticised the editor of a Hebrew-language daily in which he owns a 55 per cent stake in the Post, would alter the Post's editorial line if he gained a controlling stake.

Pratt, who owns Jewish newspapers in Australia, placed a bid for the Post, industry sources said.

Arje Genger, a U.S.-based Israeli businessman with close ties to hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, was also to have made a formal bid. Newspapers reported Genger had already offered \$5 million for Koor's shares.

Industry sources said other international Jewish financiers were interested in buying the Post, which is read by government leaders, diplomats, the foreign media, and English-speaking Israelis and Palestinians. The Post publishes a weekly edition that is distributed worldwide.

Higher output predicted

North Sea drilling is brisk

west Woodmac who also specialise on the North Sea.

He said British production may not return to match the 1985 peak, when it averaged 2.64 million barrels daily, but that it could rise fairly close to that. It was 2.31 million in 1988.

A report by Capel in April says drilling for petroleum in British, Norwegian, Dutch and Irish offshore waters continues this year and is likely to beat a 1983 total of 164 exploration wells and 56 appraisal wells.

It said the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group, British Petroleum and US-based Conoco and Amoco were the busiest operators.

Meanwhile the British government says there is good industry interest in its latest invitation to bid for North Sea exploration licences. The department of energy is expected to announce results of an 11th licensing round in June or July.

"How good is the North Sea? It compares favourably with

other areas," said Woodmac's Lewis-Davies. "You have to take account of political stability and a tax regime which is pretty fair, such as to encourage further development."

Alan Sinclair, with brokers Smith New Court, shared that view. "It's difficult to find anyone who won't agree that the North Sea is a good place to be," he said. "There is an attractive fiscal regime. The infrastructure is in place."

Finding

Oil was first discovered in British waters in 1969 and production began in 1975. There are now 35 producing oil fields with two giants, Forties and Brent, together accounting for almost a third of production.

Analysts say that nobody bets on finding another of those but smaller fields almost certainly remain to be tapped, perhaps as satellites of existing ones which makes them cheap to develop.

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The Deputy

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON (LONDON STOCKS)

LONDON (LONDON STOCKS)

NAME	LAST	STG	DNK	FFR	DATE
ABBEY LIFE	285.0	1,708.95	1,857.83	6,285.15	16/6
ADT LTD	165.0	301.0	31715.51	10,758.53	45/6
ALD LYONS	443.0	5166.187	5166.187	5166.187	44/5
AMSTRAD	140.0	10,731.7490	338.14.76	28.08/11	18/5
ARGYLL GP	186.0	2,8016.8049	88.28/38	88.28/38	22/1
ASDA GP	147.0	3.5810	112.84	33.345	10/1
BAA	363.0	1,654.973	2,079.2	7,03697	22/7
BTR	362.0	1,764.848	2,43509	8.21377	22/7
BAT IND	285.0	132.15.20	225.39/70	117/04/1989	22/7
BARCLAYS	432.0	ME GROUP	435.5	NAME	OPEN
BASS	905.0	MECA LEI	169.5	NAME	CLOSE
BEAVER	196.0	MEPC	558.0	NAME	OPEN
BECHAMS	619.0	NEKT	152.0	NAME	CLOSE
BERSFORD	154.0	NTF FOODS	295.0	NAME	OPEN
BICC PLC	480.0	P & O DFD	667.0	NAME	CLOSE
BLUE ARW	91.0	PEARSON	713.0	NAME	OPEN
BSC GP	519.0	PILKINGTON	246.0	NAME	CLOSE
BOOTS CO	492.0	POLLY PEC	313.0	NAME	OPEN
BPF IND	268.0	RACAL ELC	395.0	NAME	CLOSE
BR COMM	246.0	RACAL TEL	348.0	NAME	OPEN
BR AIRWAY	203.5	RANK RVIS	390.0	NAME	CLOSE
BR AEROSP	575.0	RANK ORG	945.0	NAME	OPEN
BR GAS RG	175.0	RECKITT CO	118.0	NAME	CLOSE
BR LAND	378.0	REED	354.0	NAME	OPEN
B.P.	279.0	RHM GRP	655.0	NAME	CLOSE
B.P. FP	277.0	REUTERS	707.0	NAME	OPEN
BR STEEL	82.4	RTZ CORP.	524.0	NAME	CLOSE
BR TELCOM	274.0	ROLLS ROY	189.0	NAME	OPEN
BURWAN OL	559.0	ROTTHAM B	100.0	NAME	CLOSE
BURTON	205.5	ROYAL INS	409.0	NAME	OPEN
CABLESWIR	494.0	SAATCHI	287.0	NAME	CLOSE
CADBURYS	347.0	SAINSBURY	229.0	NAME	OPEN
CALOR GRP	383.0	SCOT+NEW	297.0	NAME	CLOSE
CRITL COM	863.0	SEARS	124.0	NAME	OPEN
CRITL R T	234.0	SEDGEWICK	305.0	NAME	CLOSE
COOKSONS	305.0	SHELL	305.0	NAME	OPEN
COURTAULD	300.0	SIEBE	465.0	NAME	CLOSE
DALGETY	352.0	SLOUGH ES	321.0	NAME	OPEN
DIXONS	155.0	STD.CHART	525.0	NAME	CLOSE
ENG CHINA	520.0	STC	302.0	NAME	OPEN
ENTER OIL	540.0	STORENE	167.0	NAME	CLOSE
FKI BABCK	172.0	SUN ALLIA	092/0	NAME	OPEN
FERRANTI	105/0	SUN LIFE	896/4	NAME	CLOSE
FISONS	294.0	TAIRL	503/0	NAME	OPEN
GATEWAY	185.0	TARMAC	258.0	NAME	CLOSE
GEN ACCID	958.0	TATE&LYLE	160/0	NAME	OPEN
GEN ELEC	235.0	TYLR WOOD	602/0	NAME	CLOSE
GLAXO	377.0	TRAF HSE	577.0	NAME	OPEN
GRANADA	377.0	TSB	09.00	NAME	CLOSE
GLOBE	166/4	TRUSTHSE	284/0	NAME	OPEN
GLYNNED	314/0	ULTRAMAR	307.0	NAME	CLOSE
GUARD RYL	201/0	UNILEVER	537.0	NAME	OPEN
GOHL	363/0	UNIGATE	357.0	NAME	CLOSE
GUINNESS	448.0	UDT NMSPR	430.0	NAME	OPEN
HANNSRHN A	780/0	WELLCOME	483.0	NAME	CLOSE
HANSON	184.5	WHTBDR IN	344/0	NAME	OPEN
HARRIS C	187.0	WILLIAMS	263.0	NAME	CLOSE
HUKER SID	648.0	WILLIS FB	228/4	NAME	OPEN
HILLSDOWN	66.00	WIMPEY GE	277.0	NAME	CLOSE

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1696.5	1687.0	1691.0	1707.9
FT 500 SHR	1168.5	1154.7	1182.7	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	1060.90	1060.63	1060.63	1076.15
FT GO SEC	88.58	86.20	86.20	87.30
FT GOLD MN	189.4	192.5	190.2	161.9
FT MINES F	658.74	659.66	659.66	565.35
FT OIL	1961.3	1940.4	1940.4	1978.9
FT WLD DLR	144.55	143.78	142.68	141.17
FT WLD STG	124.96	125.47	124.65	123.81
FT WLD LOC	131.99	131.61	130.69	129.77
				123.40

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS OPEN FIRMER BUT CONS GOLD DROPS					
LONDON, APRIL 18, REUTER - SHARES WERE FIRMER AT THE OPENING IN CAUTIOUS TRADING AHEAD OF U.S. CONSUMER PRICES DATA DUE AT 1230 GMT.					
BY 0820 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX WAS 4.1 POINTS UP AT 2058.8 ON A TURNOVER OF 75.5 MLN SHARES.					
DEALERS SAID WORRIES OVER U.S. INFLATION LEFT WALL STREET BARELY CHANGED IN DULL BUSINESS YESTERDAY AND A POOR FIGURE TODAY COULD REVERSE SOME OF THE MARKET'S RECENT GAINS.					
CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS SLID 78P TO 1270 BEFORE RECOVERING TO 1290. A U.S. COURT DENIED A REQUEST BY MINORCO TO MODIFY A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BLOCKING ITS HOSTILE BID FOR CONS GOLD.					
THE MARKET IS LOOKING FOR A RISE OF 0.5 PCT IN THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH AFTER A 0.4 PCT GAIN THE MONTH BEFORE. DEALERS ARE WORRIED THE HIGHER FUEL AND COMMODITY PRICES WHICH HAVE FORCED UP PRODUCER PRICES SO SHARPLY OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS WILL BEGIN TO FEED THROUGH INTO THE CONSUMER SECTOR AND PUSH INFLATION HIGHER.					
LAST OCTOBER THE U.S. COURT GRANTED AN INJUNCTION AGAINST MINORCO'S BID FOR CONS GOLD ON ANTI-TRUST GROUNDS. MINORCO WAS APPEALING TO HAVE IT SET ASIDE IN RETURN FOR AN UNDERTAKING TO SELL OFF SOME CONS GOLD ASSETS WITHIN A YEAR. ANALYSTS SAID THE RULING WILL PUT MINORCO UNDER SEVERE TIME CONSTRAINTS.					

PTSCHEMIS METALS

LONDON, APRIL 18, REUTER - GOLD BULLION PRICES WERE STEADY THIS MORNING DURING QUIET TRADING, BUT PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM CONTINUED TO WEAKEN UNDER PROFIT-TAKING, DEALERS SAID.					
GOLD WAS FIXED AT 385.25 DLRS AN OUNCE, AGAINST MONDAY'S CLOSE OF 384.50/385.00 AND COMPARED WITH ITS OPENING LEVEL OF 385.80/386.30 DLRS. GOLD LACKED FRESH LEAD FROM NEW YORK WITH MOST OPERATORS RELUCTANT AHEAD OF TODAY'S U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR MARCH DUE AT 1230 GMT.					
PLATINUM WAS FIXED THIS MORNING AT 544.10 DLRS AN OUNCE AGAINST MONDAY'S 544.10/545.00 CLOSE, FOLLOWING SELLING IN FAR EASTERN AND EUROPEAN MARKETS. PALLADIUM WAS FIXED AT 165.75 DLRS.					

London Money Market

LONDON, APRIL 18, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES WERE AROUND 1/16 POINT EASIER IN MODERATE ACTIVITY THIS MORNING AS THE MARKET CONTINUED TO SHRUG OFF ITS INFLATION FEARS FOLLOWING RECENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED U.K. ECONOMIC STATISTICS.					
YESTERDAY'S RETAIL SALES AND FRIDAY'S RETAIL PRICES FOR MARCH, ALTHOUGH NOT SHOWING A MARKED SLOWDOWN IN ECONOMIC STRENGTH HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY IN LINE WITH EXPECTATIONS TO CALM MARKET FEARS OF A RISE IN BASE RATES, DEALERS SAID.					
"WE'RE STILL NOT SEEING ANY GOOD NEWS," ONE SENIOR TRADER SAID. "IT'S JUST WE'RE NOT SEEING ANY BAD NEWS, AND THE MARKET HAS REACTED POSITIVELY TO THAT."					

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DNK	FFR	NOON
1,708.95	1,857.83	6,285.15	OPG	
3.1715.51		10,758.53		NOON
1,7050/70				

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1984

International Bond Highlights

WASHINGTON: Mexico will receive about \$1 billion of the \$3.8 billion agreed in principle with the International Monetary Fund unless it works out a deal with commercial banks to reduce its debt substantially, Treasury officials said. (XLDN 1701)

Washington: Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady conceded that debtor nations which do not qualify for his debt reduction plan might simply repudiate them. (XLDN 1922)

He also said he will not start discussions on a quota increase for the IMF until the end of the year and does not expect to ask Congress to approve a capital boost in fiscal 1980. (XLDG 1948)

New York: Mexico's 13-member bank advisory committee may be expanded to include additional Japanese and British members, bankers said. (XLDG 835)

London: An approaching deadline for swapping Brazilian loans into equity has boosted their prices by about 10 pct since last week in the secondary market for sovereign debt, market makers and dealers said. (XLF 1851)

Milan: Marlon Electrodomestic SPA, an Italian domestic alliance maker, said it plans a convertible bond issue to raise up to 105 billion lire. (XLBY 1516)

Zurich: Switzerland's dominant bond underlying syndicate will face its most serious challenge to date if the government adopts recommendations announced today by the Swiss Capital Commission, bankers said. (Economic Spotlight ESD).

Amman: Bankers and economists generally welcome Jordan's sweeping price increases in line with IMF-agreed plans but the country's citizens are less happy. (XLCP 1801)

Moscow to buy more consumer goods

MOSCOW, April 18. (AP): The Soviet Union is boosting imports of certain consumer goods this year to make up for chronic shortages, a newspaper report said.

The weekly Arguments and Facts in its April 15-21 edition quoted Deputy Trade Minister Suren Sarukhanov as saying that officials had added 5 billion roubles (\$3 billion) to this year's 32.1 billion-ruble (\$31.2 billion) fund for imports of consumer goods.

The money will go for 15 million pairs of leather shoes, 12 million pairs of warm women's boots, 300 million razor blades, 10 million compact cassette players, as well as clothing, soap and detergent, toothpaste and other goods, Sarukhanov was quoted as saying.

Imports

Officials decided to boost imports in December, and Sarukhanov said the goods started to appear on store shelves this month. The boost in imports of consumer goods previously was not announced.

There was no information on whether the increased spending was a one-time decision, or whether it would be continued in the future.

Soviet officials have signed agreements with Yugoslavia, Turkey, Malta, Japan, Cyprus, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Finland, he was quoted as saying.

"Our partners were amazed... at our uncharacteristic urgency," Sarukhanov was quoted as saying.

Radical economists have urged the Kremlin to

use some of its hard currency to boost imports to fill in gaps in the market while President Mikhail S. Gorbachev tries to reform the economy.

Gorbachev has said that improving the living conditions of Soviet citizens is the main goal of his reform effort. But after four years, supplies of food and consumer goods are worse than before the reform started.

Officials announced last week that sugar will be rationed in Moscow beginning in May for the first time since World War II.

Gorbachev and other top officials have rejected calls for a sharp boost in imports of consumer goods, saying they prefer to spend the money on modernizing Soviet industry so that goods can be produced domestically.

Industry surveys also show it to be the third biggest coal producer after China and the United States, and also number three in generating electricity from nuclear power after the United States and France.

The Soviet Union consumes more primary energy from all sources than the whole of Western Europe put together.

But its oil refining industry, the largest after that of the United States, cannot produce enough petroleum, said Carol Cooper of the University of California.

Instead, it is producing huge volumes of heavy fuel oil no longer needed for electricity generation because of the growing use of natural gas as a boiler fuel, Cooper said.

PRIMERERI

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE	MITSUB CP	1600	1570	MITSUB EL	1130	1150
AEG	222.5	221.5	AIJINOMOTO	2700	2700	2480	MITSUB EST	1090	1090
ALLIANZ VR	1845.0	1850.0	AKAI ELEC	747	749	740	MITSUB HVY	1090	1090
BADENMERK	191.0	193.0	AKOI	1510	1460	1160	MITSUB CO	1160	1190
BAASF	304.5	303.8	ASAHI GLS	2440	2460	2410	MITSUKOSHI	2350	2350
BAYER HYP	392.0	392.5	ASAHI OPT	901	930	979	MITSUMI EL	990	990
BAYER VER	399.0	405.0	BANK TOKYO	1650	1680	1750	NICHICON	1780	1780
BBC	450.0	435.5	BRIDGESTONE	1490	1500	1190	NIHON CHMT	1270	1260
BFH	483.0	491.0	CANON	1660	1670	1790	NIKKO SEC	1890	1890
BHW	526.5	528.0	CASIO COMP	1430	1400	1830	NIP ELEC	1850	1850
COMERZBK	257.0	257.5	CHUGAI PHM	1530	1540	1540	NIP KOKAN	935	930
CONTI GUMM	269.0	271.0	CITIZEN W	1010	991	991	NIP OIL	1730	1700
DAIMER BEN	700.0	702.5	D-ICHI KAN	3350	3330	3330	NIP STEEL	932	932
DEUTSC BNK	555.0	558.0	DAI NIP IK	893	897	897	NIP YUSEN	1030	1060
DLW	520.0	512.5	DAI NIP PT	2300	2300	2300	NIS MOTOR	1540	1540
DRESDNER B	334.5	335.0	DAI NIP SC	1100	1100	1100	NOURA SEC	3310	3380
DL BABCOCK	174.0	174.5	DAI NIP TO	935	940	940	ORBA CO	1080	1050
FAZ INDEX	0	585.21	DAICEL	1210	1110	1110	OLYMPUS	1250	1250
FELDMEHL	345.5	344.0	DAIWA H	2000	2010	2010	PENTA OCN	1530	1550
GOLDSCHNID	405.0	405.5	DAIWA SEC	2270	2340	2340	PIONEER	3180	3210
HARPER	462.0	460.0	EBRA MFG	2090	2140	2140	RENON	1000	997
HOECHST AG	306.8	307.4	EISAI	1940	1980	1980	RICOH	1230	1240
HOESCH	242.5	246.5	FUJITSU	1450	1460	1460	SANKYO	2410	2460
HORTEN	233.0	234.0	FUJI PHOTO	3470	3490	3490	SANYO ELEC	923	926
HUSSEL HLD	533.0	535.0	FUJIIWA	1660	1660	1660	SEKISUI PB	1790	1790
KALT SALZ	206.0	207.5	FUJIIWA CP	2120	2210	2210	SHARP	1300	1300
KARSTADT	47.0	47.0	HITACHI	1520	1530	1530	SHISEIDO	1670	1680
KAUFHOF	460.0	466.0	HONDA MOT	1900	1930	1930	SONY	6770	6810
KLOECK H	168.5	171.5	ISETAN	2330	2260	2260	SUMITOMO	1430	1420
KLOECK W	167.0	167.0	ITO YOKADO	3550	3530	3530	TAISEI	1780	1810
LINDE	745.0	745.0	JAP SYN RU	1390	1340	1340	TAISHO MRN	1290	1310
LUFTHANSA	171.0	171.5	JAPAN AIR	16000	16000	16000	TAKEDA CH	2300	2360
MAN	281.0	279.0	JAPAN MET	1210	1170	1170	TEIJIN	874	873
MANNESMAN	233.0	235.5	KAJIMA	2390	2440	2440	TKO NEW IX	464.62	457.42
MERCEDES	548.0	548.8	KANSAI EL	4350	4430	4430	TKO NEW IX	464.62	457.42
METALLGES	434.0	440.0	KAO SOAP	1630	1640	1640	TOKIO NRN	2020	2020
NIXDORF PF	319.0	316.6	KAMASAKI H	1070	1070	1070	TOKYO ELEC	1260	1270
NORKS HYD	49.70	49.80	KAWASAKI S	950	940	940	TOKYO GAS	1120	1130
PHILIP KOM	711.0	714.0	KIRIN BREW	1940	1950	1950	TOKYO POWR	5900	5980
PORSCH	720.0	710.0	KOMATSU	1350	1360	1360	TOSHIBA EL	1250	1250
PREUSSAG	272.5	274.0	KUBOTA LTD	1260	1290	1290	TOTO	2080	2120
PVA	310.9	308.5	KYOCERA	4750	4790	4790	TOYOKO MGT	959	950
RHEINMETAL	460.5	463.0	NAKITA EL	1660	1660	1660	TOYOTA MOT	2480	2480
RWE P	279.0	269.8	MARU	2680	2640	2640	YAHATAI	1500	1450
RELMANDER	330.0	327.0	MATSUTA EI	2360	2390	2390	YAHATAI	1800	1780
SCHERING	627.0	629.5	MATSUTA EL	0	2660	2660	YANAHONI	3360	3370
SEL	319.0	328.7	MEIJI SEIK	1060	1050	1050	YANAZAKI	1420	1400
SIEMENS	542.0	540.1							
THYSSEN	235.0	236.0							
VARTA	368.0	370.0							
VEBA	300.5	301.5							
VEW	169.5	169.5							
VOLKSWAGEN	359.5	359.0							

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS FINISH MIXED IN SLOW, NARROW TRADE

TOKYO, APRIL 18, REUTER - SHARE PRICES FINISHED MIXED AFTER FLUCTUATING IN A NARROW RANGE THROUGH THE DAY IN MODERATE TRADE. INVESTORS WERE MOSTLY SIDELINED AHEAD OF THE RELEASE OF IMPORTANT INFLATIONARY INDICATORS BOTH HERE AND IN THE U.S. TODAY, BROKERS SAID.

"THE MARKET WAS SUPPORTED BY INDIVIDUAL BUYING IN INCENTIVE-BACKED ISSUES," SAID YOSHIO SHIMOMURA, HEAD OF EQUITIES AT NIKKO SECURITIES CO. LTD.

THE NIKKEI INDEX FIRMED 13.33 POINTS TO CLOSE AT 33,321.66. THE KEY 225-SHARE INDEX ENDED 157.89 POINTS HIGHER ON MONDAY.

"THE BIG FOCUS OF THE MARKET IS THE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX," SAID ONE MARKET STRATEGIST.

JAPAN'S MARCH WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX IS DUE AT 0800 GMT ALONG WITH MARCH MONEY SUPPLY DATA. THE U.S. MARCH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WILL BE OUT AT 1230 GMT. THE MARKET SEES A GAIN OF 0.5 PCT AGAINST A 0.4 PCT RISE IN FEBRUARY.

"THE MARKET IS VERY THEMATIC AND INCENTIVE-BACKED," SAID A BROKER AT A FOREIGN FIRM. "PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY FAIRLY QUIET AHEAD OF A LOT OF FIGURES."

TURNOVER WAS A MODERATE 1.1 BILLION SHARES AGAINST 750 MLN ON MONDAY.

"INDIVIDUALS ARE THE ONLY ONES MOVING AND THEREFORE IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP THE BUYING MOMENTUM," SAID A BROKER AT ONE OF THE BIG FOUR SECURITIES HOUSES.

THE NIKKEI ROSE 53.44 POINTS TO ITS HIGH 33,361.77 IN INITIAL TRADE, BUT FELL BACK 91.21 POINTS TO A LOW 33,217.12 IN MID-MONDAY.

"INSTITUTIONS AND FOREIGNERS ARE SIDELINED. THERE ARE CONTINUED WORRIES OVER THE POLITICAL AND INTEREST RATE SITUATIONS," THE BROKER SAID.

SELECTED INDEX-LINKED BUYING FOR NEW FUNDS HELPED THE NIKKEI RECOUP SOME LOSSES IN THE AFTERNOON, BROKERS SAID.

HONG KONG Market Report

HONG KONG, APRIL 18, REUTER - HONG KONG STOCKS CLOSED WITH MARGINAL GAINS IN RETAIL-DOMINATED TRADING WHILE INSTITUTIONS PREFERRED TO WAIT ON THE SIDELINES, DEALERS SAID.

"CAUTION AHEAD OF THE RELEASE OF THE LATEST U.S. INFLATION INDICATORS STYMIED ANY CHANCE OF FOLLOW-THROUGH BUYING EMERGING FROM YESTERDAY," A BROKER SAID. "THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO HOLD BACK DESPITE (MONDAY'S) 50-POINT GAIN."

THE HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 1.65 POINTS TO 3,135.43.

INVESTORS ARE WAITING TO SEE IF THE MARCH U.S. WHOLESALE AND CONSUMER PRICES INDICES, DUE AT 1230 GMT, CONFIRMS VIEWS THAT UPWARD PRESSURE ON U.S. INTER

OPEC pact will bring more discipline to oil market

GCC reserves total \$185 billion

ALTHOUGH strenuous efforts by governments in the Gulf to insulate their economies against the vagueness of the international oil market have been successful in promoting the development of their prospective non-oil sectors and in providing alternative sources of public finance, it still remains largely true that oil revenues constitute the main engine of economic growth for the member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), where they typically account for between 80 and 90 per cent of all export revenues, according to the NBK annual report.

A major problem confronted by oil exporters during 1988 was that of excess production, and in particular, the difficulty faced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is convincing all its member states to abide by their prospective production quotas.

Although strenuous efforts were made by the GCC oil exporters during 1988 to co-operate with non-OPEC oil producers and to try to bring about an intra-OPEC consensus on production,

It is hoped that the agreement reached in late November by OPEC ministers to limit production at 18.5 million barrels per day will bring more discipline to the oil markets.

Although the impact which exists on oil revenue was to some extent ameliorated by an increase in oil production and exports by most GCC states during the year, the volume of oil revenue generated during 1988 was lower than that achieved during 1987, although still higher than during the trough year of 1986.

For the six GCC economies, the improvement in 1987's oil prices resulted in a narrowing current account deficit from \$5.6 billion to \$1.1 billion in 1987.

The subsequent decline in prices during 1988 could widen the aggregate deficit to an estimated \$4 billion.

The aggregate hides considerable variation between the member states of the GCC, where the experience ranges from Kuwait and the UAE, which have maintained a surplus in their current accounts despite the decline in export

revenues, to Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, whose current account went into deficit only as a result of the steep decline in oil prices during 1986.

At the other end of the scale is the experience of the GCC's largest economy — that of Saudi Arabia, whose current account has been recording deficits of about \$10 billion for most years since 1983.

Deficit

Current account deficits in the GCC have traditionally been financed by capital inflows representing a repatriation of government financial reserves invested abroad. This reflected the government's principal tool of deficit financing, which in earlier years was limited to the drawdown of state reserves.

The question of how chronic public sector deficits can be financed is addressed as a major issue in three GCC countries — Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which introduced or expanded public sector borrowing schemes during the year.

Existing stock markets in Kuwait and

Saudi Arabia witnessed an increase in activity and prices, while the embryonic markets of Bahrain, Oman and UAE were further developed.

Uncertainties over the delicate question of the legality and enforceability of interest were substantially reduced, and the ability of corporate debtors to restructure and reschedule outstanding loans with banks was significantly enhanced by a number of major agreements in several GCC countries.

GCC member states reserves of \$185 billion at the end of 1988 with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia together accounting for three quarters of this amount.

Nevertheless, it was in both these countries that the largest public borrowing schemes were in evidence during 1988.

The concept of public borrowing is not new in the GCC, as development bonds have been occasionally issued in Bahrain and Oman from the mid-1970s onwards.

The first GCC country to formally introduce regular treasury bill issues was

Bahrain, with an initially small scale scheme starting in December 1986. Bahrain's debt ceiling now stands at the equivalent of \$795 million.

Kuwait's public borrowing formally began in November 1987, and its debt ceiling is KD 1.4 billion (\$4,750 million) while Saudi Arabia's public borrowing scheme began in June 1988, with a borrowing target of \$8 billion.

In the case of Kuwait, the borrowing by the government has taken the form of both treasury bonds and bills, and the effect of the scheme has been to add considerable depth to the maturity distribution of its capital and money markets.

In addition, it has provided the monetary authorities with a more sophisticated tool for managing monetary policy. The debt issue in Saudi Arabia is restricted to development bonds with varying maturities of one to five years, whose yield is determined by the government with reference to the rate of return earned on public sector development projects.



Rodolphe Frantz president/director general of Meridien

Meridien profits surge

MERIDIEN has reported an upturn in results for 1988.

Societe des Hotels Meridien (the holding company that spans both corporate holdings and management operations) registered a clear rise in net profit.

Since these results include a significant number of non-recurring items, the strength of the Meridien group's recovery is reflected more clearly in 1989 projections. The forecast of FF 47 million in net profit for 1989 is made exclusively of current income.

Meridien's recovery reflects the combination of rigorous reorganization of its hotel investment share holdings, particularly in the United States, along with a return to the black for its hotel management operations. The latter accounted for FF 32 million of 1988 net profit.

Operations

Meridien sold its shares in the San Francisco hotel in 1988 and its Newport Beach and New Orleans ones in early 1989. These operations had a dual impact on

income.

Development will centre on three key regions: North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe, and will continue to concentrate on top business and resort products.

Finally, 1988 marked yet another year when the exceptional quality offered by the men and women who make up Meridien earned the chain a number of honours.

In the ranking of the top 100 US hotels by the magazine *Lodging Hospitality*, Meridien ranks 9th (New York), 10th (Boston) and 47th (San Francisco).

What's more, a survey by *Institutional Investor* magazine of its US banking and financial community readers showed that Meridien is considered the number two hotel chain in terms of service quality.

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Minister opposes foreign loans

NICOSIA, April 18. (Reuter) An Iranian minister in charge of post-war reconstruction projects has said foreign borrowing would hurt the country's independence, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported today.

"We believe foreign loans would in the long run make the country dependent with adverse effects on the aspirations of the Islamic revolution," it quoted Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh as saying in an interview published in the daily Kayhan.

"Foreign loans will adversely affect our commitment to independence... reconstruction work is another aspect of our sacred defence in which task, I think, we should be as firm as we were in the battle fronts."

Iran has little foreign debt and most Iranian officials have rejected borrowing abroad as a means to finance reconstruction of the country's infrastructure damaged in the eight-year-long Gulf war against Iraq. Reconstruction is estimated at several hundred billions of dollars.

Jordan starts taking IMF medicine

AMMAN, April 18. (Reuter) Debt-burdened Jordan has imposed sweeping price increases in line with IMF-agreed plans to reduce its worsening budget and balance of payments deficits.

"Now they are biting the bullet," a Jordanian banker said of the rises. "As a start it's okay, but we must wait and see if the government sticks to its targets. I'm still worried about the budget deficit at the end of the year."

The rises, effective from Sunday, will erode the comfortable living standards enjoyed by many in Jordan, long reliant on an easy flow of Arab aid, remittances and foreign loans.

The government is cushioning the blow to the poor by keeping subsidies on bread, rice, milk and other food staples, while trying to reorient the economy towards production and exports.

The rises of 15 to 50 per cent on goods and services

ranging from cigarettes, detergents, beverages and fuel to car licences, telephones and irrigation water, follow the end of three weeks of talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Cuts

Jordan agreed on Thursday to a letter of intent calling for a five-year programme of budget cuts and revenue increases aimed at bringing the budget into balance in five years.

Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said the government would maintain food subsidies, expected to cost \$120 million this year, and leave unchanged the value of the dinar, fixed since early February at 540 to the dollar.

According to Jordanian economist Fahed Al Fanek, the promises can be kept only if the government meets the IMF target of reducing its budget deficit from 22 per cent of gross domestic product to two or three per cent in five years.

The 10 ports move 95 per cent of India's international trade. In the 1988/89 financial year which ended in March, they handled 146 million tonnes of cargo. Oil and petroleum products accounted for nearly 60 million tonnes of that.

Despite public words of willingness to negotiate, both sides appeared to be digging in for a long strike.

Five years ago, the strikers were out for 26 days before settling. This time the two sides are still far apart.

The officials said 90 per cent of the shore workers had tried to report for duty.

At the other nine major Indian ports affected by the strike, there was no trouble, they said.

Changes

The recommendations in the report would require major changes in the way in which the 12 nations conduct economic and monetary policy.

Lawson complained the proposals would force countries to give up some sovereignty to new institutions.

"We cannot accept the transfer of sovereignty implied by the Delors report," he said.

He also said, "the eventual destination (mapped out in the report) represents a concept of the European community which we do not share."

The moves would add a new dimension to the European

Common Market now has a monetary unit, called the European currency unit. Its use is limited, and its value is based on a basket of the currencies of the member nations.

The report said, "a single currency would clearly demonstrate the irreversibility of the move to monetary union."

A single currency, it said, would have a greater weight in comparison with other world currencies than any individual European currency.

Government urged to map market strategy

(Continued from Page 7)

direct and indirect purchasing of shares, differed losses, splitting of shares, company purchasing their own shares at market prices, and others."

The ceasefire decision in the Iraq-Iran war did help push the market, however this should be followed by an actual increase in performance of the companies which is reflected in its dividend distributions in order to keep share prices high.

The report added: "Policy makers should change their views and should reject any ideas that relates the need of having high share prices with the overall positive economic performance as this is the complete opposite. We believe that what is im-

portant is to ensure fair prices which would be achieved automatically if the market forces work freely with no external interferences."

The Kuwaiti government should plan an economic course of action based on thorough study and understanding of a study which it has and which took three years of research, in order to avoid falling into more problems by wasting more time in using trial and error methods.

Share prices were not given priority in this study nor many other issues that are given priority at present, the report said.

Projects

The Kuwait Stock Exchange authority is debating two new projects. First, allowing the establishment of investment

funds and the trading of their units which will add some proficiency to the market and provide new investment channels.

Second, allowing the listing of small successful companies in the parallel market in order to grow within it and be able to be listed in the official market.

This will allow the establishment of serious private companies that would open new investment opportunities and new professional employment.

The stock exchange is facing two major problems. One, is ensuring the continuity of most weak companies which reduces the confidence in the stock exchange and makes the market-makers role and market liquidity impossible tasks.

The other, social and political pressures that changed values and principles and made organized and rational dealings difficult, this allows for major sharp fluctuations in the market and at times contradictions, such as when companies were allowed to buy their own shares and issue stock dividends at the same time.

There must be a complete and thorough study of the actual state of listed companies, as some need quick and significant decision in order to solve its present situation while this is still

impossible.

Some companies seem to have followed this path and others have reached a hopeless situation where the best is to liquidate order to secure some of the shareholders equity and to improve

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By Kathy Coddihy

FOR many families, summer camp is a tradition: the parents used to attend when they were young, and now they send their children. But not all children greet the prospect of two or three weeks away from their parents with the same degree of enthusiasm. Nor can adults safely predict how their children will react to camp life, despite the pre-camp comments of the youngsters.

This point is highlighted by the two children of a friend who have just had their first summer camp experience. The 12-year-old daughter looked forward to her stay with eager anticipation, while the 10-year-old son thought the whole idea was for sissies and didn't want to have anything to do with it. A peek at some of their letters home revealed a few surprises.

Dear Mom and Dad,
I think we've all made a big mistake. This is a GIRLS ONLY camp. How can I expect to develop my social aptitudes in this sort of atmosphere? What's wrong with girls, you ask? You should see the specimens that share my tent! Lucy is always crying because she misses her mother. Fat Joanne picks her nose when she thinks no one is looking, and Nancy's a real smart alek. She always has a bright

Camp fever

idea that nobody want to hear.

The tents are pretty primitive. They don't even have mini-bars. And there's no room service, either. The food is yucky. If we have any more baked beans, the whole camp will float away on a cloud of gas. I would give almost anything for a Big Mac right now!

We went canoeing yesterday, but we had to carry our canoes through the woods to the river. Manual labour is not my idea of a fun holiday.

This summer camp is a far cry from the ones I read about in my romance books. Do you think the authors made everything up, or have I hit on a dud camp?

Your daughter,

Dear Mom and Dad,
You were right. Summer camp is definitely an experience. As a matter of fact, it's pretty cool. Five other boys and myself sleep in neat wood huts in the forest. Already we have the best creature collection in the whole camp. We were lucky, though, because a lot of the creatures already lived in our hut.

The other boys stayed here last summer, so they know all sorts of radical things, like how to lock the counsellors into their huts, or where the extra supplies of marshmallows are

hidden.

It looks like this might be a great summer after all. I have to go now. The boys are calling me. They have just finished making a peep hole in the counsellors' outhouse. What a life!

Your son,

Dear Mom and Dad,
Well, it's finally stopped raining. I think I have a touch of pneumonia.

With all the bad weather, we spent a lot of time playing indoor games and doing craft work. I made some psychedelic table mats which the counsellor thought were "original." I think that's adult talk that means she doesn't like them, but I know you won't disappoint me with rejection.

I've decided that I don't really like to "rough it." At least not in this way. My idea of "roughing it" is having to watch black and white TV! They don't have any TV here! What kind of place is this?

Your daughter,

Dear Mom and Dad,
What a place this is! I'm learning all sorts of farout stuff from the other boys. Jack showed me how to use his switch blade, and Daniel has taught me how to pick locks. It's just like you said: this experience is adding a whole new dimension to my education.

We caused a bit of a stir last night when we put a couple of grass snakes in the counsellors' outhouse. You should have heard the screams!

I have to go now. We're going to learn how to start a fire without using matches. You never know when that might come in handy. If you want to leave me here for an extra couple weeks, that's OK!

Your son,

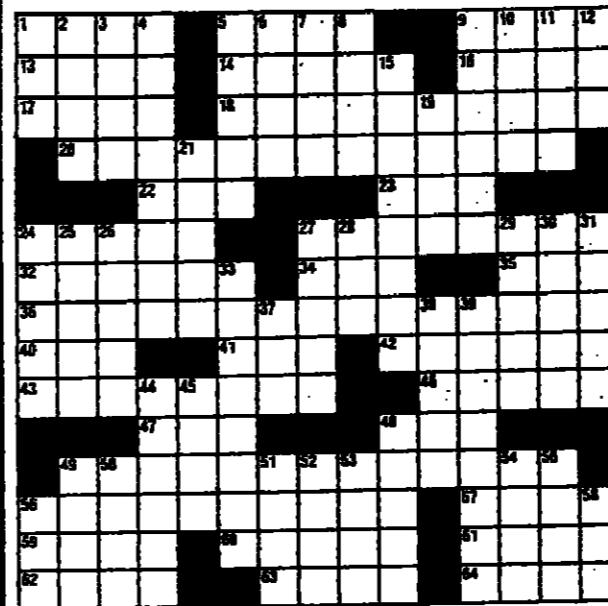
Dear Mom and Dad,

Whose idea was it to come here anyway? This place is the pits. I have sunburn blisters all over my back and there's hardly anywhere for the poison ivy to spread on my face, arms, and legs because the mosquitoes and black flies got there first. I'm a physical wreck who's quickly becoming a mental wreck as well. I'm going to need therapy after this vacation. I think you should give serious consideration to letting me leave here ahead of schedule — while I'm still able to leave. If I stay for the full session I may go home in a body bag. You wouldn't want that, would you?

Your daughter,

These letters have certainly brought back a few memories...enough so that I am seriously considering whether or not to continue the summer camp tradition with my own children....

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Valuable steed
5 Archaeological find
9 Finder start
13 Whitetail
14 Pry
15 "A Death in the Family" author
17 — in (ain) a
18 Greg Norman, for one
20 Checks
22 Proofreader's directions
23 Pro —
24 Anchor position
27 Down Under
32 Cheers' cousin
34 Jardiniere
35 Round table title
36 Third tier of schooling
40 Yegg's haul
41 Tropical cuckoo
42 Toothless, in Calais
43 — for a rainy day
46 Practices of Yoga
47 Isle in the Irish Sea
48 Tailoring problem
49 Scolded loudly
56 Egg shelters
57 Pindanc

DOWN
1 Axile tool
2 Rod's partner
3 Prefix with gram or graph
4 Russet colored
5 Peter and Alexander
6 Burden
7 Part of MVP
8 Those two
9 Dove, in Barcelona
10 Exchange premium
11 Celts, for one
12 Biddy
15 Make-believe
19 Baker's companion
21 Character in "Silas Marner"
24 Garden insect
25 An instant
26 Thesaurus name
27 Hero-actor Murphy

productions
59 Words of understanding
60 Peace Nobelist in 1978
61 — chance (hopeless)
62 Farm enclosures
63 — horses!
64 Part of QED

26 Joanne of Logan, W. Va.
29 "Of Thee —"
30 Type of amphora
31 Sea eagles
33 Beginners of a type
37 Conclude
38 17th cent. Scottish mapmaker
39 Time of day
44 Priests'
45 Neckcloths
46 Cummerbund
48 Roman holiday
49 Demolish, in Chelsea
50 Solar disc
51 Wet blanket
52 Ocean motion
53 Warmth
54 Bouquet
55 Cheese a la Athens
56 With it
58 Posed

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AROMA ELEMEN WAIS
HAVOC WALLIES ERA
OVER THE HILL MIRIA
YENS ORR TAISTED
EMS DINETTE
VIOLETS AND GO
OSU DANANG USEH
TITLE ERG PEEVIE
OTOE CAMERAS EDN
FARAD RECEDED
PASERS LEI
ANJTRA DOE FARO
PIG OFFONES FEED
ASH SEIZE AERIE
SET ESTER GLOSS

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ A3 ♦ AKJ105 ♦ 8 ♦ AKJS2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ K32 ♦ A2 ♦ AKJS ♦ KJS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ AJ ♦ K54 ♦ 762 ♦ KJPS2
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ AJ ♦ K54 ♦ 762 ♦ KJPS2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?



"Are you steering?"

Are you a heroic fool?

By Stephanie Beattie

DO you know instinctively how to handle yourself in a sticky situation? Or do you cry 'Help' and curl up like a hedgehog whenever things start going wrong?

To find out whether you are one of the panicking masses, or the leader who bravely ushers them all to safety, try our heroic failures quiz.

1. Which of the following would you consider the most courageous?
a) Leading people from burning building
b) Giving up weekends to do voluntary work in hospital
c) Giving a speech
d) Disposing of a spider

2. You're at a friend's wedding and the best man is totally drunk and incapable of giving his speech. Do you?
a) Drag him off and try to sober him up?
b) Heckle during his speech?
c) Find a last minute stand in?
d) Take the floor yourself?

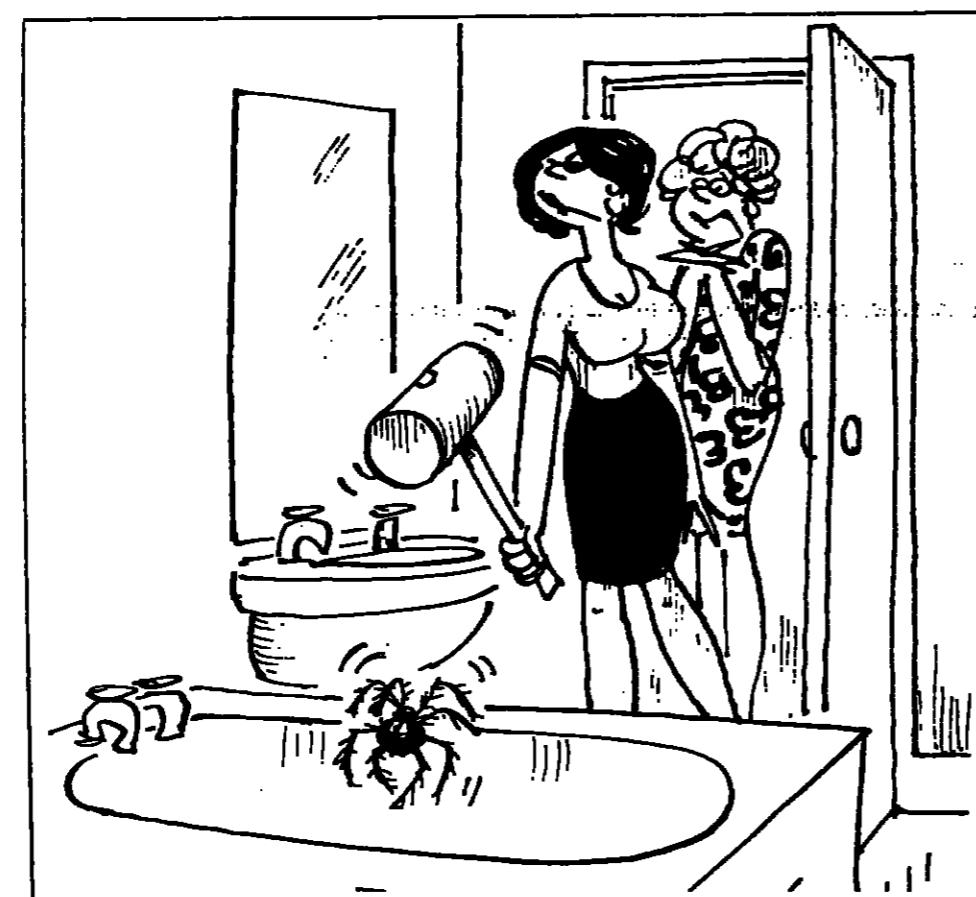
3. You're visiting a friend and their new dog meets you at the gate, sounding none too friendly. Do you:
a) call 'Hello' in a loud voice, hoping they'll come to save you?
b) walk in determinedly?
c) try to make friends with it?
d) go away and come back later?

4. You are alone in the house when you hear a noise downstairs. Do you:
a) investigate, armed with a heavy object?
b) inch your way quietly out of the house?
c) cover your head with a blanket and hope it's a cat?
d) carry on an imaginary loud conversation with a friend?

5. Which of the following colours do you prefer?
a) Red
b) Yellow
c) Blue
d) Green

6. Which of the following would most like to be?
For the Girls:
a) Princess Leia in Star Wars.
b) Marie Curie.
c) Joan of Arc.
d) Yourself.

Weekly quiz



For the Men:
a) Superman
b) Woody Allen
c) Clint Eastwood
d) James Rockford

7. On your way to work you witness a road accident. Do you:
a) call an ambulance?
b) try to keep people back?
c) administer first aid?
d) move on as though you're not noticed?

8. You see a child crying in the street. Do you:
a) walk past, keeping an eye out for a possible parent?
b) find the nearest police-man?
c) ask him/her what's wrong?
d) hover for a few minutes to see what happens?

9. Your neighbour keeps you awake at night with his stereo. Do you:
a) outblast him?
b) complain to him?
c) invite him for a drink and talk about people who play loud music?
d) call the police?

10. You're a hairdresser giving you a disastrous jail-house crop. Do you:
a) buy a wig?
b) change your image to suit the new you?
c) tell everyone it's exactly what you wanted?
d) go sick?

If you scored 35-45: **Brave Idiot.** You'd be a handy person to have around in a crisis. You react well under pressure, thinking clearly and taking the initiative when others are panicking. You're not that brilliant when everyday things go wrong though — the worse the catastrophe, the stronger you become.

If you scored 23-34: **Cautious Idiot.**

Survival and sense are your two watchwords — which isn't to say you're not brave, just that you think before you leap.

11. At a fancy dress party, would you wear:
a) blue tight, red underpants, vest and flowing cap?
b) chain mail and armour?
c) black suit with dog collar?
d) three fig leaves and nothing else?

12. Your boss comes into the office with his trouser flies undone. Would you:
a) tell him?
b) get someone else to tell him?
c) drop something or get him to look down and notice himself?
d) laugh and point?

13. While giving a dinner party, a pan of hot oil goes on fire. Do you:
a) agree, matching insult for insult?
b) announce that you love reading it?
c) keep quiet about your personal tastes but defend people who like it?
d) make a joke of the whole subject?

14. You're invited to someone's house and, while nosing around, you break an antique ornament. Do you:
a) leave quietly?
b) say: 'Did you know there's some broken china on the floor?'
c) grovel and offer to pay?
d) apologise?

15. Your boss comes into the office with his trouser flies undone. Would you:
a) tell him?
b) get someone else to tell him?
c) drop something or get him to look down and notice himself?
d) laugh and point?

If you scored 0-10: **Stupid Idiot.** Let's hope you're never in real danger. This is the category where you'll probably be huddled in a corner blubbering or screaming in panic if things get desperate. Still, if there weren't people like you there wouldn't be any heroines or heroes. At least you were brave enough to tell the truth when answering the questions. And that takes guts!

You'd make an excellent right-hand person when things get desperate. When others are taking the decisions and leading the panicking masses from a flaming building, you'll be bringing up the rear, checking no one is left behind or closing doors as you leave, so the fire doesn't spread.

Survival and sense are your two watchwords — which isn't to say you're not brave, just that you think before you leap.

SCORING

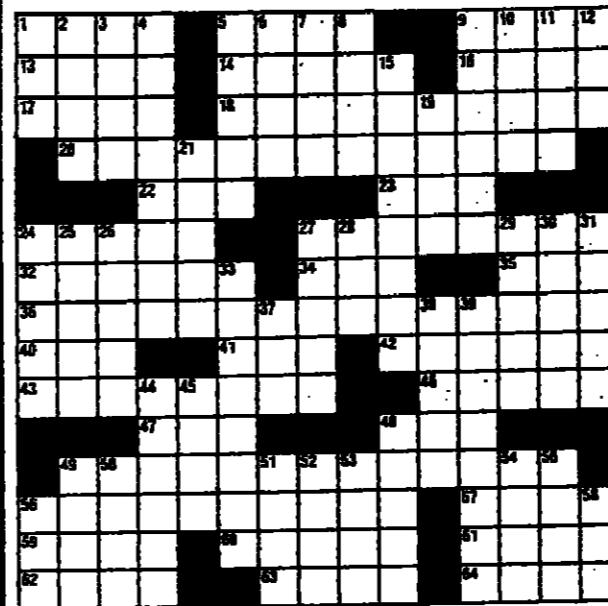
	a	b	c	d
1	3	2	0	1
2	2	0	1	3
3	2	3	1	0
4	1	2	0	3
5	3	1	0	2
6	0	2	3	1
7	1	2	3	0
8	0	3	1	2
9	0	3	2	1
10	0	3	2	1
11	2	1	0	3
12	3	1	2	0
13	3	1	0	2
14	0	1	2	3
15	3	1	2	0

What your score means

son to have around when things go wrong because you can give strength to others who can't cope.

If you scored 23-34: **Cautious Idiot.** Perhaps the most heroic category of all — you're petrified when danger threatens but you are able to overcome that fear to do what is necessary. You'd be a good per-

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Valuable steed
5 Archaeological find
9 Finder start
13 Whitetail
14 Pry
15 "A Death in the Family" author
17 — in (ain) a
18 Greg Norman, for one
20 Checks
22 Proofreader's directions
23 Pro —
24 Anchor position
27 Down Under
32 Cheers' cousin
34 Jardiniere
35 Round table title
36 Third tier of schooling
40 Yegg's haul
41 Tropical cuckoo
42 Toothless, in Calais
43 — for a rainy day
46 Practices of Yoga
47 Isle in the Irish Sea
48 Tailoring problem
49 Scolded loudly
56 Egg shelters
57 Pindanc

DOWN
1 Axile tool
2 Rod's partner
3 Prefix with gram or graph
4 Russet colored
5 Peter and Alexander
6 Burden
7 Part of MVP
8 Those two
9 Dove, in Barcelona
10 Exchange premium
11 Celts, for one
12 Biddy
15 Make-believe
19 Baker's companion
21 Character in "Silas Marner"
24 Garden insect
25 An instant
26 Thesaurus name
27 Hero-actor Murphy

productions
59 Words of understanding
60 Peace Nobelist in 1978
61 — chance (hopeless)
62 Farm enclosures
63 — horses!
64 Part of QED

26 Joanne of Logan, W. Va.
29 "Of Thee —"
30 Type of amphora
31 Sea eagles
33 Beginners of a type
37 Conclude
38 17th cent. Scottish mapmaker
39 Time of day
44 Priests'
45 Neckcloths
46 Cummerbund
48 Roman holiday
49 Demolish, in Chelsea
50 Solar disc
51 Wet blanket
52 Ocean motion
53 Warmth
54 Bouquet
55 Cheese a la Athens
56 With it
58 Posed

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AROMA ELEMEN WAIS
HAVOC WALLIES ERA
OVER THE HILL MIRIA
YENS ORR TAISTED
EMS DINETTE
VIOLETS AND GO
OSU DANANG USEH
TITLE ERG PEEVIE
OTOE CAMERAS EDN
FARAD RECEDED
PASERS LEI
ANJTRA DOE FARO
PIG OFFONES FEED
ASH SEIZE AERIE
SET ESTER GLOSS

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ A3 ♦ AKJ105 ♦ 8 ♦ AKJS2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do

Controversial play in defence of Rushdie

Air of anxiety as Iranian Nights set to open

By Nigel Reynolds

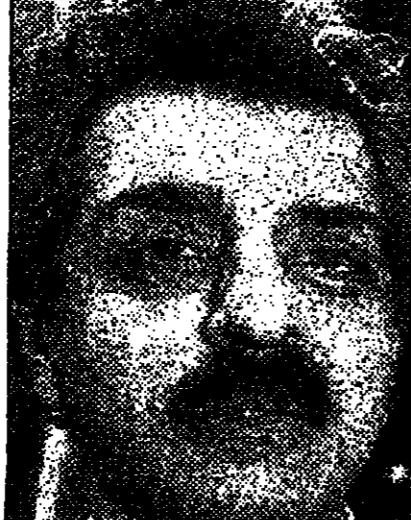
IT IS not often that a London play causes a real live riot. The Royal Court Theatre, and doubtless the Metropolitan Police, are hoping that this week will be like any other in Sloane Square — a few glue-sniffers, well-heeled shoppers on their way home, but not a crowd of fundamentalists baying for a couple more names to be added to Ayatollah Khomeini's death list.

The Royal Court, often praised and sometimes castigated for its adherence to the radical, has taken the decision to give nine platform performances (6 pm shows) to a hastily written one-hour drama by Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton that is a forthright post-*Satanic Verses* attack on intolerance.

Under conditions of great speed and some secrecy three actors are rehearsing for *Iranian Nights*, which will, via the medium of episodes from "The Arabian Nights" and a row between a semi-literate restaurant owner in Bradford and his highly educated son, unfold a critique of fundamentalism covering the fall of the Shah of Iran, the rise of the mullahs in Tehran and the whole Salman Rushdie affair.

There is an air of anxiety at the Royal Court and in the seven weeks since Ali, a Muslim by upbringing who became the darling of 60s' revolutionary London, conceived his idea and asked Brenton, one of Britain's most radical playwrights, to help him, there have been hiccoughs brought on by nerves.

The title is Ali and Brenton's second choice. Their first, "A Mullah's Night Out", was set upon as far too provocative by the Royal Court's council at a long and heart-searching meeting to discuss the play on March 20.



The writers: Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton

And two well-known Asian actors, Roshan Seth and Art Malik — who, Ali says, had originally agreed to be in the three-handed "Iranian Nights" — will not be in the line-up.

The theatre says the actors backed the project in principle but hadn't read the play and eventually found they had other commitments.

In the atmosphere of inflamed feelings following Khomeini's instruction that "The Satanic Verses" was blasphemous and that it was a good Muslim's duty to murder Rushdie, nobody knows how British Muslims will react to "Iranian Nights".

The Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance has said there will

be no objections as long as the play is not blasphemous and does not use obscenities to describe Islam. But the Society is a moderate force in Britain's Muslim community.

Both Ali and Matthew Evans, of publishers Faber and Faber, who chair the Royal Court's governors' council, insisted yesterday that the play contains no blasphemy. Evans says that if, at most Muslims claimed at the time, their objection to "The Satanic Verses" was that it was blasphemous then "Iranian Nights" will not cause offence.

But if, as some have suspected, there were wider forces at work which sought to condemn anything critical of modern-day Islam, then there is no knowing what

the reaction to the play will be.

Evans and his council, who include playwrights David Hare, Caryl Churchill and Muslim-born Hanif Kureishi along with Robert Fox and Sonia, Lady Melchett, are, however, deeply aware that there are many newspapers as well as religious leaders — who are only too ready to make capital out of another row.

After the March 20 meeting all staff at the Royal Court were consulted about the play because of obvious worries about their security. The governors also decided that minimum advance publicity should be given.

Evans, Ali and Stafford-Clark all insist that it is right for any theatre to tackle a sensitive issue like fundamentalism. The play, they say, will educate about Islam but also explain that Khomeini is as representative of Islam as the Reverend Ian Paisley is of Christianity.

The Royal Court says that there is no parallel to be drawn between *Iranian Nights* which was cancelled in 1987 on the grounds that it would cause deep distress to Jews. Evans says there were a number of fundamental differences between the two cases, not least that there was scholarly opposition to "Perdition" on the simple ground that Allen's story — about the alleged collaboration of Zionists in the extermination of Hungarian Jewry during the last war — was historically wrong.

Another, technical but perhaps more crucial difference is that the theatre's governors were not consulted about Perdition until in the day. Because of that furore the council insisted on being kept better informed. By March 20 Max Stafford-Clark had made sure that several governors had read Ali and Brenton's play. Their support was unanimous.

Get out there and improvise

Jazz isn't dead: Brubeck

By Amy Duncan

NEW YORK: "Jazz isn't dead yet," two-fisted piano player Dave Brubeck said recently. "It's the underpinning of everything in this country. Whether it's a Broadway show, or fusion, or right on through classical music, if it's coming out of the US, it's not going to survive unless it's got some jazz influence."

Brubeck has been prominent on the jazz scene since the 1940s. His talent as a pianist is legendary. He was also a powerful force for renewed interest in jazz in the '50s and '60s. A Time cover story on the rebirth of jazz in 1954 focused on Brubeck. And he revolutionised the music in 1963 with the wild time signatures on his million-selling album "Time Out", from which emerged the jazz classic "Take Five" written in 5/4 time.

"Jazz stands for freedom," says Brubeck. "It's supposed to be the voice of freedom: Get out there and improvise, and take chances, and don't be a perfectionist — leave that to the classical musicians."

To some extent, though, Brubeck has joined the classical artists. He studied with French composer Darius Milhaud in 1946. And throughout his career he has been a soloist with symphony orchestras. His sacred choral music has been performed around the world.

Brubeck says he got interested in writing sacred music when he was in the Army in World War II.

"I started growing up in a hurry and taking a lot of the

philosophy I'd heard from church as a kid a lot more seriously — especially the Ten Commandments — and wondering how 'Thou shall not kill' could be so absolutely ignored. It took me until I was in my 40s to write what I was thinking as a young soldier."

The work that came out of that thought was the oratorio "The Light in the Wilderness," based on the temptations and teachings of Jesus.

After he played at the Gorba-chev-Reagan summit last spring in Moscow, Brubeck was impressed by the progress that has been made toward the Commandments: "Thou shall not kill."

"I had the feeling that we're closer Here we are — trying to love our enemies, and look how much has moved in a right direction. Christ (Jesus), being the inspired man that he was, knew that this is the only answer."

Ambassador

Dave Brubeck is a true jazz ambassador. He has played for every President of the United States since John F. Kennedy, and has travelled around the globe, soaking up the music of other cultures. Long before "Grazian," Paul Simon's collaboration with South African musicians, Brubeck was influenced by the music of Africa. In fact, he says the inspiration for "Time Out" and its follow-up album, "Time Further Out," came from an early recording of African music.

"It was entitled 'The Dennis Roosevelt Expedition into the

Belgian Congo,' recorded in 1946 — that's when they took the old acetate machines into the jungle."

Although Brubeck has often been overlooked as a jazz innovator, some have criticised his piano style as heavy-handed. He and the late alto saxophonist Paul Desmond, along with drummer Joe Morello and bassist Eugene Wright, formed one of the most successful quartets in the history of jazz. In particular, Desmond's yearning lyricism proved the perfect foil for Brubeck's percussive approach.

"As the leader, you must fill in where your group needs strength," he said. "If Paul had been percussive and raucous, you'd have heard how lyrical I am. Paul would have played an endless ballad that started at the beginning of his life and went to the end. But I used to egg him on, and sometimes he'd get a little angry, but I knew the side of him that was also rhythmically wonderful."

That famous quartet came to an end in 1967. After a few years of a new quartet with baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, Brubeck began to tour with his musical sons, drummer Daniel and keyboardist Darius, and trombonist/bassist Chris at "Two Generations of Brubeck."

Dave Brubeck's current lineup consists of Randy Jones on drums, Chris Brubeck on electric bass and trombone, and Bill Smith on clarinet.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor

Britain's Royal Opera House braces for the 90s

Winds of change in 'the garden'

By David Gillard

A BRISK new wind is blowing through the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Britain's premier showplace for opera and ballet, and home to both the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies. And it is very much a wind of change.

Over the past two years there has been a shake-up in the artistic and administrative leadership of what is popularly known as "The Garden." First, the Dutch conductor, Bernard Haitink, took over as Music Director, and Paul Findlay became Opera Director. For the Royal Ballet the British dancer, Anthony Dowell, stepped in as the new Director, and at the top of the House, Sir John Sainsbury became Chairman of the Board.

But the last few months have seen an even greater influx of new blood — a new Production Director and new Dramaturg for the Royal Opera (John Cox and Patrick Carnegy) and, most important of all, a new General Director for the "old lady of Bow Street" — Channel 4 Television's founding Chief Executive, Jeremy Isaacs.

Isaacs, 56, comes to The Garden with a distinguished track record as a programme maker and executive for the BBC and ITV. He was formerly editor of the BBC TV current affairs programme "Panorama" and Director of Programmes for Thames TV, where he initiated the widely acclaimed 26-part series "The World at War." In 1981 he was the guiding force behind the launch of Channel 4, one of Britain's newest television channels.

He had often shown his flair for arts leadership but many wondered how he would adapt from the hurly-burly of television to the rather more rarefied realms of the day-to-day running of an international opera house, with its giant stars and giant egos. But, within six months, he had already brought a fresh, sometimes brash but always revitalising aura to the House. The "old lady of Bow Street" is picking up her skirts and fairly scampering towards the millennium.

"Certainly," Isaacs admits, "it is not the quiet life my friends reproached me for leaving broadcasting for."

Indeed, the new regime has got off to a forward-looking start, with the launch of what Isaacs calls his "Five Year Plan." He has pledged that the Royal Opera will rebuild "the core of its repertoire" and that the Royal Ballet will give a greater share of the performances, as the Royal Opera House moves towards 1993 — the crucial date when the House will close for three years for a £98 million redevelopment.

The most far-reaching of Isaacs' new broom plans concern the opera company. He explains: "From this season the Royal Opera sets out substantially to increase the number of new productions it offers each year; to improve the quality of its revivals; to vary its repertoire; and to bring into partnership the right conductors, directors, designers and international casts who will, we hope, raise the roof."

How, precisely, will the roof be raised? First, he says, with new productions: "They are the life blood of a thriving opera house. We shall present no less than six new productions, and often more, in each of the next five seasons. We intend to give British and some



A recent ballet performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London.

foreign opera the opportunity to perform here regularly."

The Welsh National Opera and the Hungarian State Opera and Ballet have already appeared, the latter in February, while the Komische Oper from East Berlin arrives at the end of July.

He adds: "We are also staging two of the finest productions mounted outside London in recent years — Nuria Espert's production of "Madama Butterfly," originally staged by Scottish Opera, and Sir Peter Hall's Glyndebourne production of Britten's "Albert Herring."

Nuria Espert, the great Spanish theatre director, has also been responsible for a new "Rigoletto," and will return for "Carmen." Which brings us to the "core of the repertoire." The Italian producer Piero Fagioli has already been appointed the company's Principal Guest Producer and will be responsible for a new series of Verdi operas.

Unfortunately, Isaacs' plans to inaugurate

a new cycle of Wagner's "Ring," produced by the Soviet Yuri Lyubimov, founder after the first part, "Das Rheingold." Undeterred, he has commissioned the German producer, Goetz Friedrich, to forge a new "Ring".

There are also plans to produce operas rarely staged in London, such as Rossini's "William Tell" and Borodin's "Prince Igor."

And, says Isaacs: "We shall continue to invite the greatest singers in the world while building up to its previous strength a family of House singers."

On the ballet front, he sees a no less starry future: "Sir Frederick Ashton died in August and a giant influence on the company was removed. But the Royal's founder, Dame Ninette de Valois, is happily still with us and the company's future is still in the making. Anthony Dowell will soon end his glorious dancing career and become, full time, the necessary critical spur and catalyst to new excellence. The talent is there; rigour is called for in energising it."

By Smith

Classics or modern — it's all dance to Twyla

By Mary Kerner

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuter): To most people, classical ballet conjures up images of toe shoes and tutus, whereas modern dance means leotards and bare feet.

But the line of demarcation is blurring, and no one would be more pleased than choreographer Twyla Tharp to see it disappear altogether.

"There shouldn't be a definition or a difference between ballet and modern — it's all just dance," Tharp said during a recent interview in San Francisco where her *Everlast* had its world premiere with the touring American Ballet Theatre (ABT).

Everlast, which paired ABT star Susan Jaffe with Kevin O'Day from Tharp's former company, is a narrative about a boxer in love with the "wrong" woman. It is set in 1919 in songs of Jerome Kern.

Tharp stunned the dance world last summer when she gave up the modern troupe she had directed since 1965 to become an artistic associate of the New York-based ABT, a bastion of classical ballet.

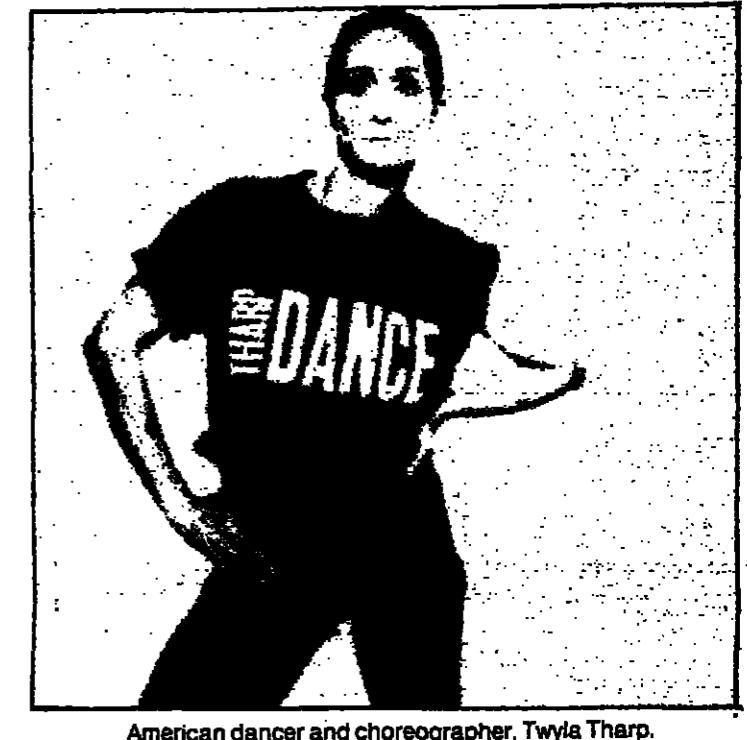
Dance aficionados wondered why Tharp, with four feature films to her credit *Hair*, *Ragtime*, *Madeus*, and *White Nights* — would let go of her company and her autonomy to labour within the structure of an organisation like ABT.

But autonomy had a price. Running a dance company, she said, took too much time away from what she loves best: making dances.

"I want to make the best dances I can make, so I need to be in a situation where that can happen. When I feel the situation is restricting it and not allowing that to come to pass and it's being compromised, then I won't work," she said.

Tharp brought seven of her dancers with her to ABT, which has been run since 1984 by Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Tharp's association with the Soviet-born Baryshnikov dates back more than a decade. He danced her "Push Comes to Shove" with ABT in 1976, and she later choreographed several pieces with him in mind — "Sinatra suite", "The Little Ballet" and "Bach Partita." She received



American dancer and choreographer, Twyla Tharp.

an Emmy for a 1985 television special "Baryshnikov by Tharp," and they worked together on the film *White Nights*.

The association has been beneficial.

Tharp loves working with technically strong dancers, and Baryshnikov's career expanded with Tharp's new approach to movement, which encompasses ballet, modern, jazz and tap dance.

Her dancers are coaching ABT in "Tharp" style, which requires tremendous speed, rapid change of directions and often juxtaposes point shoes with sneakers.

Tripping the light fantastic at 94

By Sandra Oshiro

HONOLULU, Hawaii, (Reuter): Arthur Murray, the man who taught America to dance, is still tripping the light fantastic at the age of 94.

Thought not as sprightly as he once was, the famous teacher of the tango, waltz and foxtrot who later became a successful financial adviser, still takes to the dance floor with his wife, Kathryn, 82.

"One never forgets how to dance," said Murray, who celebrated his 94th birthday on April 4. "Age limits vitality, but moving rhythmically to music is still a joy."

Murray built up a chain of more than 500 dance studios across the United States. He sold

them in 1952 for five million dollars but continued to manage them until 1964. Two years later he moved to Hawaii where he lives in a comfortable Waikiki apartment with an ocean view.

According to his wife of almost 64 years, he goes swimming on most days and spends a fair amount of time napping. But he remains as sociable as ever.

"What I like about Arthur is he understands women very well," Kathryn Murray said.

The couple met at a New Jersey radio station when Kathryn was 18. Murray asked for her telephone number, but it was three weeks before he called.

While the studios were at the peak of their success in the 1950s and early 1960s, the couple

became stars of a television dance show. Arthur chose the talent that appeared on the show.

"I think that managing our television show for 11 years was a real highlight of my life," he said.

Shortly after moving to Hawaii Murray launched a second profitable career which seemed far removed from the world of the foxtrot — investment managing, beginning with the assets of friends and family.

He later concentrated on takeover candidates and energy stocks, gaining a reputation as a shrewd investor.

Between 1978 and 1980, a unit in his Hawaii Traders group tripled in value.

But keeping up with the financial news began to take too much time and study so a few years ago he switched his investments to

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Soviet boxers set to enter professional ranks

NEW YORK, April 18. (Reuters): Soviet boxers, long a force in Olympic and amateur circles, are about to step into the professional ring for the first time, US and Soviet boxing officials announced yesterday.

"We are dealing with the new Soviet Union, and once and for all the Soviets are coming to the US," Lou Falcigno, president of Momentum Enterprises, said in announcing a 10-year agreement bet-

ween his boxing promotional firm and the Soviet Boxing Federation.

A breakdown of money was not disclosed by either side, but it was clear that the Soviet boxers would not receive the multi-million dollar fees commanded by US stars such as heavyweight Mike Tyson and middleweight Sugar Ray Leonard.

"I don't want to talk about the amount of money," said Vladimir Kokurin, deputy director of Sovintersport, the

government branch responsible for the commercialisation of Soviet sports.

Prospects

"The fighters will get a stable amount of money and extra money will be paid depending on their success," he added.

The first group of six Soviet boxers are expected to come to the United States by October and possibly make their debuts as soon as the end of the year, Falcigno said.

The first batch is expected to include

1988 Olympic bronze medal heavyweight Alexandre Mirochnichenko.

Falcigno has already visited the Soviet Union to scout potential professional prospects and will do so over the next five months at major European and Soviet amateur championships.

"The only fighters that they will not offer to us will be the ones who might fight in the 1992 Olympic Games," Falcigno said.

Jahangir equals Hunt's record

Devoy clinches 6th straight title



Jahangir extends his reign

LONDON, April 18. (Reuters): Jahangir Khan unleashed a furious burst of stunning shots in the final game to win a record-equaling eighth British Open men's squash championship yesterday.

The Pakistani world champion outlasted Australian Rodney Martin 9-2, 3-9, 9-5, 0-9, 9-2 to match the achievement of Australian Geoff Hunt in 1981.

Sue Devoy of New Zealand claimed her sixth successive women's title and avenged a world championship defeat last month by Briton Martine le Moignan.

Hunt, who gained his titles over a 13-year span from 1969 to 1981, was the last man to beat Jahangir in the British Open. That was in the 1981 final.

Since then Jahangir, whose name means "conqueror of the world," has been invincible in a tournament which because of its long tradition he rates more important than the world championship.

But there were times yesterday when it seemed as if his reign might end as Martin, who lost in four games in last year's final, threatened an upset.

Jahangir, unhappy with the refereeing in the fourth game, requested a change of officials, but his plea was rejected by the tournament director.

He left no doubts of his supremacy with a devastating

display in the deciding game, winning the first seven points without dropping service.

Jahangir changed his tactics from a defensive back-court game to all-out attack and Martin could do nothing to halt the blitz.

"I wasn't surprised at how he played the fifth game but I expected to play a lot better myself," Martin said. "I finally started playing better at 7-0 and even then I felt strong enough to come back."

"But you can't give Jahangir that much of a lead," he added.

Jahangir said: "This has been a really important year for me and this was the toughest win of them all. There was a lot of pressure here this week."

Control

He had the better of the opening game, but Martin appeared to have gained control when he took the second.

Jahangir forced the pace in the third but the points trickled away in the fourth, and it seemed a desperation measure at 4-0 when he asked for the change of referee.

After being told it was "perfectly competent refereeing," by tournament director Andrew Shelley, Jahangir re-applied himself to the task of winning.

The fourth game proved to be beyond recall, but there was no stopping Jahangir in the fifth. A

mixture of power and forecourt finesse earned him a string of winners and put him quickly in control. By the time Martin responded it was too late.

The petite Devoy's 8-10 10-8 9-3 9-6 triumph reversed the result of the world championship final in Amsterdam last month.

"Martine was number one for a few weeks, but one swallow does not a summer make," Devoy said.

Devoy, 25, had too much consistency and all-round fire-power for her tall left-handed rival, whose languid left-handed skills were not backed up with the court speed she needed on the night.

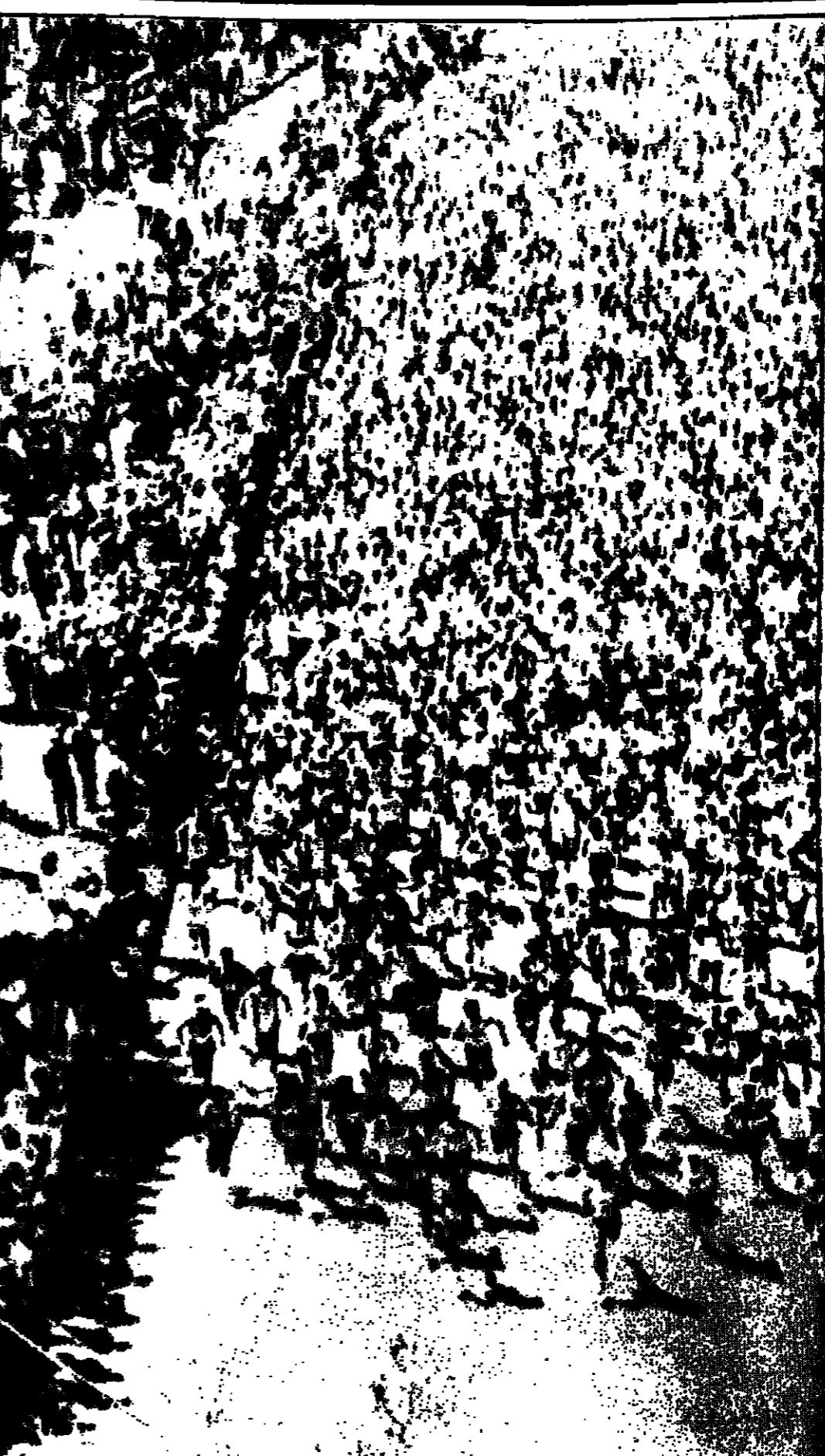
In particular, Devoy's back-hand drop shot into the corner proved too much for Le Moignan to handle.

"I started very tentatively and played just as well as I was allowed to. She made some great shots in the first game," Devoy said.

The tall strong Le Moignan scored well with superbly disguised boasts in the first game.

But Devoy began to read them better in the second game. She led 6-0 in game two, fell 7-6 behind as Le Moignan rallied, then survived a game ball against her to level the match.

From then on, the result seemed inevitable. Le Moignan had little left to offer and Devoy sealed her victory in an hour.



A birds-eye view of the start of the race. (Reuter wirephoto)

Celtics go overtime to beat Hornets

NEW YORK, April 18. (AP): Robert Parish scored 21 points and keyed Boston's power-hauling advantage on the boards with 22 rebounds last night as the Celtics defeated the Charlotte Hornets 113-108 in overtime.

Brian Shaw hit three free

throws in the final 22 seconds of

overtime to seal the victory, Boston's fifth straight over the Hornets. Shaw, who had 12 rebounds, scored all five of his points from the line.

Reggie Lewis finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds and Kevin McHale added 18 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, which outrebounded the Hornets 73-44.

Boston took a 110-104 lead in overtime on a pair of offensive rebounds and inside jumpers by Parish.

The Hornets came back with four straight points and had the opportunity to tie the score when Kelly Tripucka was fouled with 26 seconds left. But Tripucka, an 86.6 per cent free-throw shooter, missed both free throws.

Rex Chapman led all scorers with 29 points for Charlotte.

Keenan Olajuwon scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half and paced a fourth-quarter rally that gave Houston a 99-91 victory over San Antonio.

Michael Jordan awoke a sluggish Chicago offense with 20 points in the fourth quarter as the Bulls ended a six-game losing streak by defeating the New York Knicks 104-100.

Karl Malone made a pair of layups and a free throw to open a six-point lead in the fourth quarter and Utah Jazz stayed in command to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 108-102.

Eddie Johnson scored 21 of his 24 points in a lopsided second period as the Phoenix Suns got their eighth consecutive victory and the biggest victory margin in the National Basketball Association this season, beating the Sacramento Kings 140-85.

Seattle took its first lead of the game on Sedale Threat's jumper with 2:12 remaining in overtime and the SuperSonics posted a 116-109 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Results

Boston 113 Charlotte 108

Chicago 104 New York 100

Houston 99 San Antonio 91

Utah 108 L.A. Clippers 102

Phoenix 140 Sacramento 85

Seattle 116 Golden State 109

Faber upsets Maleeva in first round

LARGO, Fla., April 18. (Reuters): Unseeded American Donna Faber took advantage of third-seeded Katerina Maleeva's failures from the service line to score an opening round upset at the \$200,000 Tampa Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Faber posted a 6-3 1-6 6-3 win over 10th-seeded Maleeva, who had 11 double faults, including eight in the third set.

"I never served like that in my life," said Maleeva, playing her second tournament since undergoing surgery on her right shoulder last January.

"I guess I have to learn everything all over again. I can not accept that I lost to her," the frustrated Bulgarian said.

Faber, ranked 80th in the world, acknowledged it was her best victory. The 18-year-old left-hander turned professional at the

Australian Open in January.

"I was playing pretty well in the beginning. I was hitting out. Even though she won the second set pretty easily, I knew I was still in it. Instead of getting impatient I just took my time a little more," Faber said after the baseline duel.

Maleeva's serve deserted her in the final set.

Broke

In the sixth game, Maleeva double faulted three straight times to put Faber ahead 4-2. The Bulgarian broke right back to bring the set back on serve only to double fault three more times in the eighth game. Faber held at love to end the match.

Sixth seed Sandra Cecchini advanced, but not without a struggle. The Italian rallied for a 5-7 6-2 6-2 win over Argentine Patricia

Tarabini, who said she was still recovering from a broken ankle that sidelined her for eight months last year.

Two other seeds advanced. Seventh seed Susan Sloane beat fellow-American Ann Grossman 7-5 6-1, and eighth seed Conchita Martínez of Spain beat Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece 6-2 6-2.

Top seed Gabriela Sabatini, riding high after handing world number one Steffi Graf her first defeat of the year last Sunday, was to play her first-round match today.

Former world number one Tracy Austin will play her opening match against fellow-American Halle Ciolfi tomorrow. It will be the second singles match this year for Austin, who is making a comeback after five years off the tour due to recurring back and neck injuries.

Red Sox rally to edge Orioles

giving up a two-single to Marty Barrett.

The Orioles scored in the ninth on an RBI single by Randy Milligan and a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Jim Traber. But reliever Bob Stanley earned his second save by retiring Rene Gonzales on a game-ending fielder's choice.

Andy Hawkins pitched a five-hitter for his first American League victory and Roberto Kelly drove in four runs, three with a ninth-inning triple, as the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-2.

Devon White doubled home a run in right center.

The Red Sox scored another run when Mark Williamson walked Rich Cerone with the bases loaded. Williamson was replaced by Kevin Hickey, who struck out Wade Boggs before

Knowles goes out in first round

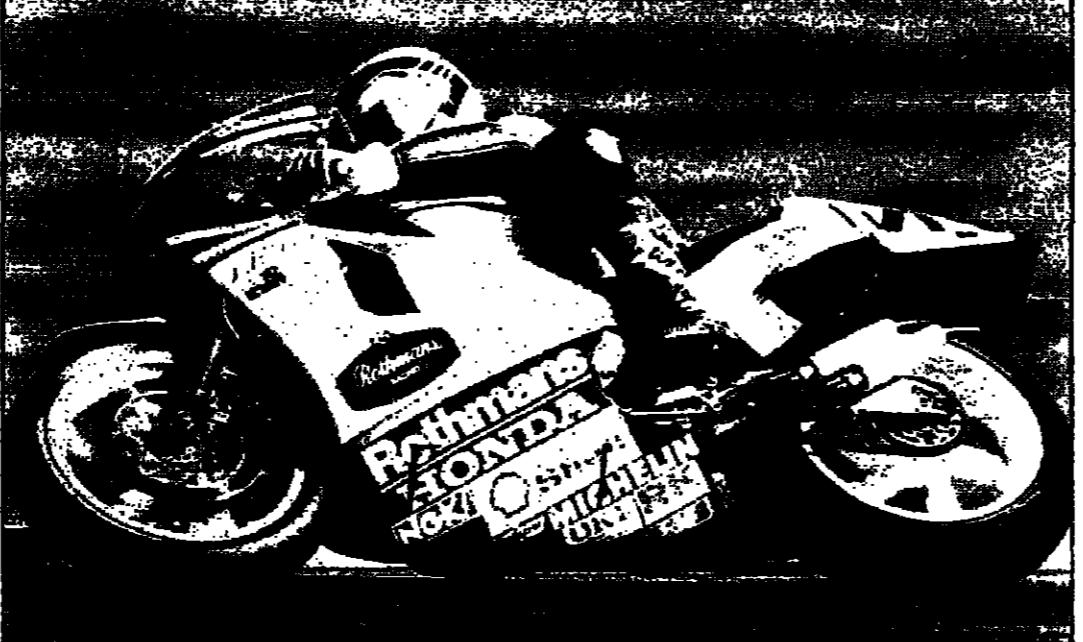
SHEFFIELD, England, April 18. (Reuters): Englishman Tony Knowles, who caused one of the biggest upsets in the history of the World Snooker Championship seven years ago, became a shock first-round loser himself yesterday.

Knowles, whose main claim of fame was his 10-1 victory over title favourite Steve Davis in the first round of the 1982 championship, lost 10-6 to David Roe of England, who has not previously qualified for the competition proper.

Knowles trailed 5-4 going into the final session.

Young American rider's life no longer threatened

Gardner caused his own crash



Gardner expects to take part in the Austrian Grand Prix on June 4.

Gardner was treated for a broken bone in his lower left leg after he crashed on the 11th lap of

the 40-lap race, which was won by American Wayne Rainey, a Yamaha rider who leads the series points standings.

A hospital spokesman said last night that Gardner was in good

condition and was expected to be released today.

Gardner said he caused his own crash when he caught his foot during a fast turn, sending his Honda bike sprawling.

The star rider was treated by the Grand Prix tour's doctor, Claudia Costa, who said Gardner should be walking in about three weeks. The Australian rider said he hoped to return to the circuit for the June 4 race in Austria.

Kevin Magee of Australia, a team-mate of Rainey, is in a San Francisco Bay area hospital recovering from surgery on his broken lower left leg.

Crashed

Magee and Shober's cycles collided in a freak accident on the cool-down lap following the end of the race.

Shober, who was riding alongside and talking to Lawson, crashed into the back of Magee, who had either stopped or slowed to almost a stop.

Although a rookie on the world tour, Shober is well known on the US circuit and the winner of eight various national championships.



Kristiansen raises her arms in victory. (Reuter wirephoto)

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 18. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) Stanley Cup playoff games yesterday.

Winnipeg 4 Philadelphia Flyers 3

Pittsburgh Penguins 4 Philadelphia Flyers

Montreal Canadiens 3 Boston Bruins 2

Montreal Canadiens 3 Boston Bruins 2

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Top jockey

LONDON, April 18. (Reuter): Desert Orchid's jockey Simon Sherwood is to retire and will not ride the horse again. Sherwood, beaten only once in 10 rides on the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, is to give up before the British jump racing season ends early in June.

Neutral umpires

WELLINGTON, April 18. (Reuter): Steve Woodward, a leading New Zealand cricket umpire accused by Pakistan of bias, backed his country's support for neutral umpiring today.

Indian cricketer

PORTE-OF-SPAIN, April 18. (Reuter): Indian cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin has a groin injury which will require surgery and is unlikely to play in the remainder of the tour of the West Indies.

Nice Open

NICE, France, April 18. (Reuter): Third seed Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina opened the European clay court tennis season with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Belgian Eduardo Masso at the \$155,000 Nice Open yesterday.

World chess

BARCELONA, Spain, April 18. (Reuter): Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic retained his lead in the World Chess Cup here yesterday, winning his 15th round match against Iceland's Jóhann Hjartarson in a Sicilian defence after 43 moves.

Mike Tyson

LOS ANGELES, April 18. (UPI): Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was asked yesterday by city prosecutors to appear at a May 12 hearing to determine if he will be charged with striking a parking lot attendant.

Italian player

ROME, April 18. (Reuter): High-scoring Napoli striker Andrea Carnevale was summoned to the Italian squad for the first time in his career yesterday for soccer friendlies against Uruguay and Hungary.

Globetrotters to play match in Kuwait

THE Harlem Globetrotters basketball team due on the Winston Arab world tour, including Kuwait, this May are "the real thing," says a spokesman for the promoters, quelling rumours that the tour might be a repeat performance of the scam tour of two years ago.

"The organisers of a previous basketball tour gave newspapers and the public the impression that the team they were going to see was the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters, but they were not. They were actually a team called the New Harlem Team who try to imitate the style of the Globetrotters — but not very successfully," the spokesman said.

The Globetrotters will be playing against their rivals the Washington Generals in Kuwait on May 15.

Arsenal defy League after soccer disaster

LONDON, April 18. (Reuter): English First Division soccer leaders Arsenal defied the Football League and called off this evening's League match against Wimbledon as a mark of respect to the victims of Saturday's Hillsborough tragedy.

The League yesterday turned down Arsenal's request to postpone the game.

But after a special board meeting Arsenal chief executive Ken Friar said: "Our hearts go out to the people of Liverpool and, in view of the sad events at Hillsborough, we feel it would be entirely inappropriate to play our League match against Wimbledon so soon after Saturday's tragedy."

Saturday's FA Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham was called off after only six minutes when later-arriving spectators at the Liverpool end of the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield surged forward, crushing 94 fans to death.

Theoretically, Arsenal now face a big fine and the possibility of having championship points deducted for failing to fulfil the fixture.

But they have put the League, who have already sanctioned the postponement of games involving the two Merseyside clubs, Everton and Liverpool, in a dilemma.

Although they deducted two points from Tottenham — later commuted to a £15,000 fine for failing to fulfil their opening fixture of the season — the League will face charges of insensitivity if they attempt to punish Arsenal in this week's terrible circumstances.

The League have agreed to postpone the top-of-the-table clash between Liverpool and Arsenal next Sunday as a mark of respect.

Meanwhile, Liverpool began a week of official mourning yesterday for 94 soccer fans crushed to death.

The week of mourning was decreed by the City Council whose leader, Kevan Coombes, gave assurances of financial help to unemployed and poor relatives of the victims.

"Nobody will be prevented from getting loved ones back by lack of money or prevented from making funeral arrangements," he said.



Princess Diana listens as an injured soccer fan, Stephen Williams, relates the events of Saturday's incident. (Reuter wirephoto)

Milan bid to eliminate Real

Italian trio seek European glory

LONDON, April 18. (Reuter): AC Milan will be bidding to eliminate Real Madrid from the European Cup for the first time in four attempts and launch a new era of Italian soccer supremacy when they meet the Spaniards in the second leg of their outstanding Champions' Cup semifinal tomorrow.

Milan, leading Italy's bid for a trio of finalists in all three European club soccer tournaments, fell to the Spaniards in the semifinals in 1986, the final in Brussels the following year and in the second round in 1983-64.

But, inspired by their brilliant Dutchmen Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, they are poised to erase their past disappointments by securing a place in this season's final in Barcelona on May 24.

Captain Franco Baresi, who gave an outstanding display in the Milan defence in the first leg, warned: "It will be a much tougher match than the first leg. They know we will attack them and they'll have all the counter-measures ready."

While the two star-laden

giants Galatasaray with the luxury of a 4-0 first leg advantage in the other semifinals.

A Milan victory, together with success for Sampdoria, who meet holders Mechelen in the Cup Winners' Cup semifinals, and Napoli, who play Bayern Munich for place in the UEFA Cup final, could give the Italians three finalists as they prepare to host next year's World Cup finals.

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There, the 1983 and 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest who travel to Izmir to meet Turkish cham-

ampions Steaua should have little trouble in completing a comfortable aggregate triumph over Galatasaray, the first Turks to reach the last four of any European tournament.

Others

The Romanian Army team will be without the joint leading scorer in the competition Marius Lacatus through suspension, but Galatasaray — playing in Izmir under orders from UEFA for crowd misbehaviour in Istanbul earlier in the season — will miss their suspended striker Tanju Colak and midfielder Ugur Tunekler more acutely.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Sampdoria's hopes of success may depend on how adequately they cope with the absence of Italian international striker Gianluca Viali and defenders Amedeo Carboni, Moreno Nannini and Marco Lanna.

Holders Mechelen, 2-1 ahead from the first leg, remain confident they can survive despite Viali's away goal for the Italians to secure a place in the final in Berne on May 10.

Their likely opponents there are Barcelona to travel to Bulgaria to meet Sredets Sofia with a 4-2 lead.

In the UEFA Cup, Bayern Munich of West Germany hope to stop Diego Maradona's Napoli completing a possible trio of Italian finalists, but have to overcome a 0-2 deficit to succeed.

The Italians, masters of defensive play, seem likely to go through however to face West Germany's VFB Stuttgart or East Germany's Dynamo Dresden in the two-legged final.

Stuttgart led 1-0 from the first leg but the East Germans have a formidable home record in European soccer — 33 wins and only two defeats in 44 matches — and a close match is in prospect.

UEFA stands by decision to readmit English clubs

BERNE, April 18. (Reuter): The European Football Union (UEFA) said yesterday that Saturday's tragedy at Sheffield had not altered its decision to approve the return of English clubs to European competitions in the 1990-91 season.

Europe's top soccer body said in a statement issued in Berne it had been deeply moved by the tragedy and had expressed its condolences to the English Football Association, the clubs concerned and the British government.

"As far as the return of English clubs is concerned, UEFA will not alter the position taken by its executive committee in Palma last week," it added.

"The readmission of English clubs to European competitions will take place as of the 1990-91 season, under the formal condition that the English government observes the European convention for the fight against violence in sports, and that it undertakes to support and aid the English Football Association in this matter," the statement added.

It said after an investigation into the tragedy, UEFA President Jacques Georges would seek a meeting with the British minister for sports.

"Based on the president's report, the executive committee will take the necessary decision," the statement added.

Earlier on Wednesday UEFA general secretary Gerd Aigner described the Sheffield disaster, in which 94 people died, as a serious setback for world and European soccer.

Affect

But he told Reuters it was too early to say how it would affect UEFA's decision to allow the re-entry of English clubs to European competitions after a five-year ban.

Meanwhile, Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson commented on remarks about the Liverpool supporters from the UEFA president.

In a radio interview Georges said: "One had the impression that the Liverpool supporters were beasts who wanted to charge into an arena. It was not far from hooliganism."

Robinson said Georges should resign and added that if he refused to quit the FA should withdraw from UEFA until he was replaced.

"The UEFA president's reported comments are uninformed and most insensitive at a time when the city of Liverpool is mourning the victims of the Hillsborough tragedy," Robinson said in a statement.

"There has been no suggestion that the Liverpool supporters were involved in any kind of hooligan act in the leadup to Saturday's tragedy."

The FA had said the semifinal had been withdrawn from UEFA until he was replaced.

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Clubs want to tear down security fences

LIVERPOOL, England, April 18. (Reuter): English soccer clubs said yesterday they wanted to tear down security fences at their stadiums to ensure no more fans suffered the fate of 96 spectators crushed to death.

At the same time the British government said it would press ahead with controversial ideas for safer soccer after the tragedy at Sheffield's Hillsborough stadium when Liverpool played Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Liverpool and London side Tottenham were among clubs calling for removal of fences, which were erected to stop pitch invasions and prevent fighting by segregating rival fans.

"We would like to have them down before our next home match," Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson said.

As the city of Liverpool declared a week of official mourning, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said it was the government's duty to the dead and injured to uncover the causes of Britain's worst sporting disaster.

Replace

Wearing a black tie in mourning, Hurd, who visited Hillsborough on Sunday with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, told parliament that the government was considering telling all football clubs to replace standing-only terraces with seats.

The deep quiet in the House of Commons was broken only by cries of "shame" and "no" by opposition Labour Party politicians when Hurd said the government still planned to go ahead with a controversial identity card scheme for football club supporters.

The government believes that the future of football in this country lies in a national membership scheme in designated grounds and now it seems also in providing all-seated accommodation at major football clubs," Hurd said.

The card scheme is intended to limit attendance at soccer matches, rooting out hooligans whose behaviour has forced clubs to erect security fences to separate supporters of rival teams and prevent them invading the pitch.

Police are bearing the brunt of the blame for deciding to open a gate at Hillsborough and allow 2,000 late-arriving Liverpool supporters to swarm on to already-crowded terraces.

The dead, mostly young men and children, were forced against the safety fences by surging newcomers or trampled underfoot.

Hurd said an inquiry would begin immediately and one of the central questions would be examination of the police action.

"We have to set our sights high and find a better way for British football," he said.

Police say the order to open the gate was given because of a dangerous crush building up outside the ground.

Hospitals in Sheffield, where Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, and his wife Princess Diana arrived to visit survivors, said five people were still in a serious condition.

Whiteside recalled for qualifier

BELFAST, April 18. (Reuter): Manchester United midfielder Norman Whiteside, plagued by an ankle injury for the past year, has been recalled to the Northern Ireland squad which travels to Malta for a crucial World Cup qualifier next week.

Whiteside, who shot to fame in 1982 in Spain as the youngest player of the World Cup finals, has had two operations on his Achilles tendon during the last year and returned to League action only this month. He last played for Northern Ireland last April in a friendly against France.

Missed

Manager Billy Bingham also recalled Queen's Park Rangers central back Alan McDonald, who missed the previous Northern Ireland Group Six match, a 2-0 defeat to Spain in February, through suspension.

Sheffield Wednesday's Nigel Worthington, despite a groin injury, has also been summoned for the April 26 game to boost the team's remote hopes of qualifying for next summer's finals in Italy.

Northern Ireland are currently third in their group with three points from four games.

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